RO
EXE
42
ケイ
KAI

**DAVE COOK | CLARK BINT | CRAIG PATON**

# KILLTOPIA

# キラー市

## THE COMPLETE COLLECTION

# KILLTOPIA

## キラー市

TITAN
COMICS

**TITAN COMICS**
**EDITORIAL ASSISTANT** IBRAHEEM KAZI
**ASSISTANT EDITOR** LOUIS YAMANI
**EDITORS** PHOEBE HEDGES & CALUM COLLINS
**SENIOR CREATIVE EDITOR** DAVID LEACH
**GROUP EDITOR** JAKE DEVINE
**PRODUCTION CONTROLLERS** CATERINA FALQUI & KELLY FENLON
**ART DIRECTOR** OZ BROWNE
**SALES & CIRCULATION MANAGER** STEVE TOTHILL
**MARKETING COORDINATOR** LAUREN NODING
**PUBLICITY & SALES COORDINATOR** ALEXANDRA ICIEK
**PUBLICIST** CAITLIN STORER
**PUBLICITY MANAGER** WILL O'MULLANE
**DIGITAL & MARKETING MANAGER** JO TEATHER
**HEAD OF RIGHTS** ROSANNA ANNESS
**HEAD OF CREATIVE & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT** DUNCAN BAIZLEY
**PUBLISHING DIRECTORS** JOHN DZIEWIATKOWSKI & RICKY CLAYDON
**CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER** ANDREW SUMNER
**PUBLISHERS** VIVIAN CHEUNG & NICK LANDAU

For rights information, contact rosanna.anness@titanemail.com

**KILLTOPIA: THE COMPLETE COLLECTION**
Standard Edition: 9781787744189
DM Edition: 9781787744301

Published by Titan Comics, a division of Titan Publishing Group, Ltd. 144 Southwark Street, London, SE1 0UP.
Titan Comics is a registered trademark of Titan Publishing Group, Ltd. All rights reserved.

Killtopia © 2024 Dave Cook. All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the prior written permission of the publisher. Names, characters, places and incidents featured in this publication are either the product of the author's imagination or used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead (except for satirical purposes), is entirely coincidental.

A CIP catalogue for this title is available from the British Library.

First Edition: October 2024

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in China

# KILLTOPIA

## キラー市

## THE COMPLETE COLLECTION

WRITTEN BY
**DAVE COOK**

ART BY
#1-2 **CRAIG PATON**
#3-5 **CLARK BINT**

COLOURS BY
#1-2 **CRAIG PATON**
#3-5 **LOU ASHWORTH**

LETTERS BY
**MICAH MYERS**

ORIGINAL SERIES EDITED BY
**JACK LOTHIAN**

TITAN
COMICS

# “WHAT MAKES A PIECE OF FICTION CYBERPUNK?”

I wrestled with this for some time when coming up with the earliest *Killtopia* concepts in 2016. Historically, the cyberpunk genre has largely focused on the idea of dystopian societies, where large corporations or entities govern the restless lower classes, and new technology pushes the limits of the human condition through augmentation.

Across decades of cyberpunk-influenced TV, film, books and comics, many stylistic tropes have become common ingredients of the genre, such as neon signs cutting through dark, rain-swept mega cities, and the classic image of some brooding, noir-esque anti-hero fighting societal injustice (while presumably wearing some kind of trench coat).

Of course, these are all massively stereotypical cyberpunk components. The wonderful thing about the genre is how easily it can be expanded and re-shaped to fit an infinite number of narratives and settings. Cyberpunk fiction doesn’t have to exist only in downtrodden, oppressive cities with (sometimes embarrassingly) edgy narrative beats. It’s why you could make a confident argument that a game like *Final Fantasy VII* or a movie like *Ex Machina* exist in the same space. They’re not overtly cyberpunk, but they do fit the overall theme and vibes.

I decided early on that *Killtopia* wouldn’t follow the stereotypical cyberpunk genre tropes too closely. The first book even has a guy in a *Blade Runner*-esque trenchcoat getting eviscerated, which isn’t exactly subtle on my part...

And sure, *Killtopia* includes a lot of similar cyberpunk themes, but I decided to satirise them with the same dry, British humour I’d picked up from legendary shows like *Brass Eye* and *The Day Today*, which can feel kind of dystopian if you squint hard enough. I also leaned on the razor sharp satire of *RoboCop* (definitely cyberpunk!), my favourite anime, *Cowboy Bebop* (which is where Killtopia’s catchphrase ‘Let’s Jam!’ comes from), and I tapped into the tone of my favourite Japanese action video games, like *No More Heroes*, *Bayonetta* and *Devil May Cry*.

Many of my influences weren’t cyberpunk at all, but they captured the kind of atmosphere, brash tone and larger than life characters I wanted for *Killtopia’s* world of Neo Tokyo. I set out to make it feel like a real, lived-in place you wanted to spend time in, with a distinct vibe, clear rules, weird cultural tics and oddball slang. It’s a city where life isn’t all that bad, but if its citizens could just tear their focus away from their media hype and obsessive fandom for a minute, they’d see the signs of the city’s imminent collapse everywhere.

All of this brought me back to my goal of not falling into cyberpunk’s stereotypical rules, and I think that’s why Neo Tokyo and the *Killtopia* series have resonated with so many people over the years. It mirrors the challenges and stranger elements of present-day life in a way that’s relatable, while also lampooning the more ridiculous aspects of our society.

I hope you enjoy *Killtopia* and thank you so much for supporting the series.

Let’s Jam!

Dave Cook

ZERO WING
NE

"WRECKERS.
KAIJU
納
"FOR OVER A DECADE THESE BADASS SOLDIERS OF FORTUNE HAVE PROTECTED OUR CITY FROM THE MECH INFESTATION SWEEPING SECTOR K.
危険
"DESTRUCTION AND PERIL ARE THEIR ADDICTION; WEALTH AND FAME ARE THEIR REWARD.
"BUT FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY, FIFTY OF THE WORLD'S ELITE WRECKERS WILL COMPETE IN A TURBO-CHARGED BATTLE ROYALE AS THEY HUNT THE DEADLIEST PREY OF ALL..."

"EACH OTHER!!
"IT'S WRECK-FEST X, BABY!
"IN JUST THREE AGONISING MONTHS, THESE AUGMENTED ASSASSINS WILL HIT THE HOSTILE JUNGLES OF KILLTOPIA AND STALK EACH OTHER FOR THE ULTIMATE PRIZE OF 50 MILLION CREDITS.
"PEOPLE HAVE LITERALLY BEEN KILLING FOR TICKETS AS THE CITY REACHES PEAK HYPE!
KILL SECTOR-K
KILLTOPIA
"IS THAT BONER IN YOUR PANTS ABOUT TO BURST? ARE YOUR TITS STIFF FROM EXCITEMENT?"
STILETTO
K
ZERO
47

"COMING AT YOU LIVE FROM THE KILLTOPIA MEDIA CENTRE, IT'S THE WRECK-FEST X PRE-SHOW, WITH YOUR HOST *KAZUE NAKADA.*"
WHAT'S *UP* GUYS?! KAZUE HERE GETTING *LIT* AHEAD OF THE TENTH WRECK-FEST SHOWDOWN AND OH *MAN,* HAVE I GOT SOME TREATS FOR YOU TODAY!
HERE'S A TASTE OF WHAT'S TO COME...
WRECKFEST X
GET CRUNK
07
Kanatonic
"...WE'LL MEET THE KILLTOPIA SUPER-FANS SELLING THEIR *BALLSACKS* TO BUY PASSES FOR THE WRECK-FEST AFTER-PARTY.
"LOOKING *GOOD,* BUDDY!
CAT
猫
去勢
03
"BUT FIRST WE'RE TALKING WITH RETURNING CHAMP, *STILETTO,* WHO CLAIMED HER SECOND *WRECK-FEST* TITLE BY SLAUGHTERING PRO-WRESTLER MEGATON MIIKE.
"RAISED IN THE FORMER UNITED STATES, THEN ORPHANED IN THE *SECTOR K CATACLYSM,* THIS DEADLY DYNAMO IS NOW THE HOTTEST WRECKER TO GRACE KILLTOPIA.
ZERO WING
"CAN SHE MAKE IT THREE FOR THREE THIS YEAR?"

'SUP *GIRL?* SPIT SOME HOT *FIRE* FOR US.
BRING IT IN, ASSHOLE, I WON'T BITE.
SO YEAH, I'VE BEEN SMASHING THE VR TRAINING PROGRAMS *HARD* AND WORKING WITH MY R&D GUYS ON SOME SICK NEW TECH.
07
AS YOU CAN SEE, MY SIGNATURE STILETTO WHIP SWORD'S HAD A *HUGE* UPGRADE.
IT'S NOW GOT A REV HANDLE TO CRANK UP THE VOLTAGE.
SO ALL YOU MECHS AND WRECKERS OUT THERE ARE IN FOR A *BRUTAL* SHOCK THIS YEAR.
"I CAN ALSO REVEAL THAT ALL MY FANS, COSPLAYERS AND MERCH HOUNDS CAN BUY THE LATEX REPLICA SWORD EXCLUSIVELY AT *WRECK-FEST X.*"
STILETTO
*HOT DAMN!*
FUCK YOU
*I'M GONNA FUCKIN' HURL, MAN!*
IT AIN'T CHEAP.
BRING MONEY.

YOU HEARD THE LADY, GET OUT THERE AND PRE-ORDER YOUR SWORDS *NOW!*
UGH...
LOVE IT
KAIJU FRIENDS
MEAT
TO HAVE *HER* KIND OF MONEY.
I COULD GET RID OF THIS *JANKY* TECH AND START HUNTING BIG GAME.
THEN WE COULD PUT THE *ROT* BEHIND US.
*MECH COOLANT.*
RECENTLY DISCHARGED.
PING!
Eden
PING!
THEY'RE CLOSE.

THERE.
TWO QUADRAPED MECHS, UNARMED BUT WITH PALLADIUM OUTER SHELLS RESISTANT TO CORROSION.
ACID-BASED ROUNDS WON'T MAKE A DENT.
1000011000010
11100110110011
KAIJU COLA
歯ブラシ
THEY'RE TERRAFORMING AND BURNING A LOT OF FUEL.
CATALYTIC EXHAUST PORTS ON THE SIDE OF THEIR HEADS, RELEASING HIGH QUANTITIES OF HYDROGEN.
THAT MEANS THEY'RE HIGHLY FLAMMABLE.
EXTRA SPICY
STEADY.
JUST BREATHE.

WUBB-WUBB-WIKI-WIKI
BOOM! BOOM!
OH YOU HAVE *GOT* TO BE SHITTIN' ME.
*REALLY?!*
THERE'S NO RUNNING FROM DR. SCRATCH, I'M A KILLTOPIA OG FOOLS!
DR. SCRATCH
DOCTOR SCRATCH: TOTAL RAP BASTARD
DR. SCRATCH. LEGENDARY RAP ICON-TURNED WRECKER, TEN-TIME PLATINUM ARTIST, AND WEAPONS-GRADE MEATHEAD.
SCRITCH-A-SCRATCH!
NERO
THE BLASTS FROM HIS SONIC DECK CANNON VIBRATE SO FAST, THEY CAN SHATTER BONE ON A DIRECT HIT.
YOU IN THE TERRORDOME NOW, BITCHES!
SHAKABOOM
JUST NEED TO LAY LOW AND LET HIM FINISH HIS HUNT.
I CAN JUST WAIT UNTIL HE PASSES AND SALVAGE WHATEVER SCRAP HE LEAVES BEHIND, IT'S BETTER THAN NOTHING.

10010001110001
111100010100100
おっぱい
ZERO WING
YO, YOU A *FUNNY LOOKING DUDE.*
WALKING UPRIGHT ON TWO LEGS, ALMOST LIKE A PERSON.
MAPPING SYNTAX.
DECODING LANGUAGE DATA.
セックスパーティー
SORRY *NUTS 'N' BOLTS,* TIME TO DIE.
KAIJU — COLA
売春街
WHY?
WHY DO YOU TAKE SUCH PLEASURE IN DESTROYING US?
NO. FUCKIN. WAY.
URK!
NOW THAT'S THE WRONG QUESTION *TIN MAN.*
WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS, WHEN THE *HELL* DID MECHS START TALKING AND HAVING FEELINGS?
HATER BOI

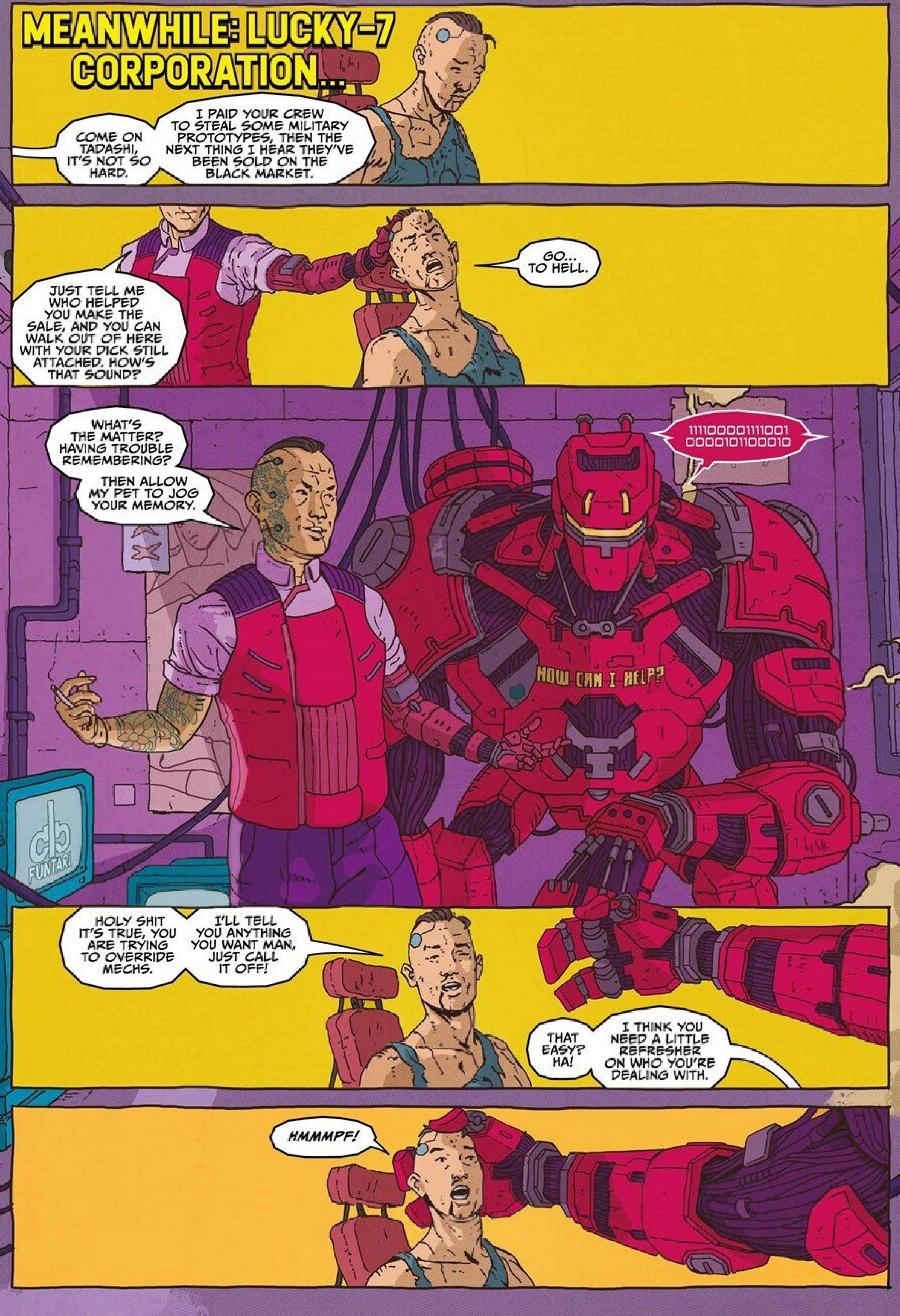
NO MECH HAS EVER ACHIEVED SENTIENCE, LET ALONE HUMAN SPEECH.
IF IT CAN UNDERSTAND ME, THEN MAYBE, JUST MAYBE...
TRANSLATION IS MY PRIMARY FUNCTION.
I MERELY DECODED YOUR LANGUAGE AND SCANNED NEARBY NETWORKS TO LEARN YOUR ENTIRE SYNTAX AND DICTIONARY.
NO SHIT!
PEOPLE PAY ME TO WRECK, AND I BRING THEM THE PARTS FOR CASH.
IT'S NOTHIN' PERSONAL, JUST BUSINESS, YA DIG?
LET'S SEE HOW THAT PLATINUM-RECORD PRICK LIKES MY SMOKE BOMBS, HAND-CRAFTED, WITH LOVE.
IT'S OUTTA HERE!
CRACK!
DONK

WHAT IN THE NAME OF HELL?
FART.
WELP... THAT'S A DUD.
SEE, *THIS* IS WHY I NEED CREDITS FOR BETTER TECH.
CRAP!
OH CRAP!
WUBB!
NOTHIN' BUT A WEAK-ASS WRECKER WITH SHIT TECH.
YOU KNOW THE RULES KID, WE'RE IN PEACETIME.
YEAH? LOWER YOUR GUN FIRST, DICKHEAD.

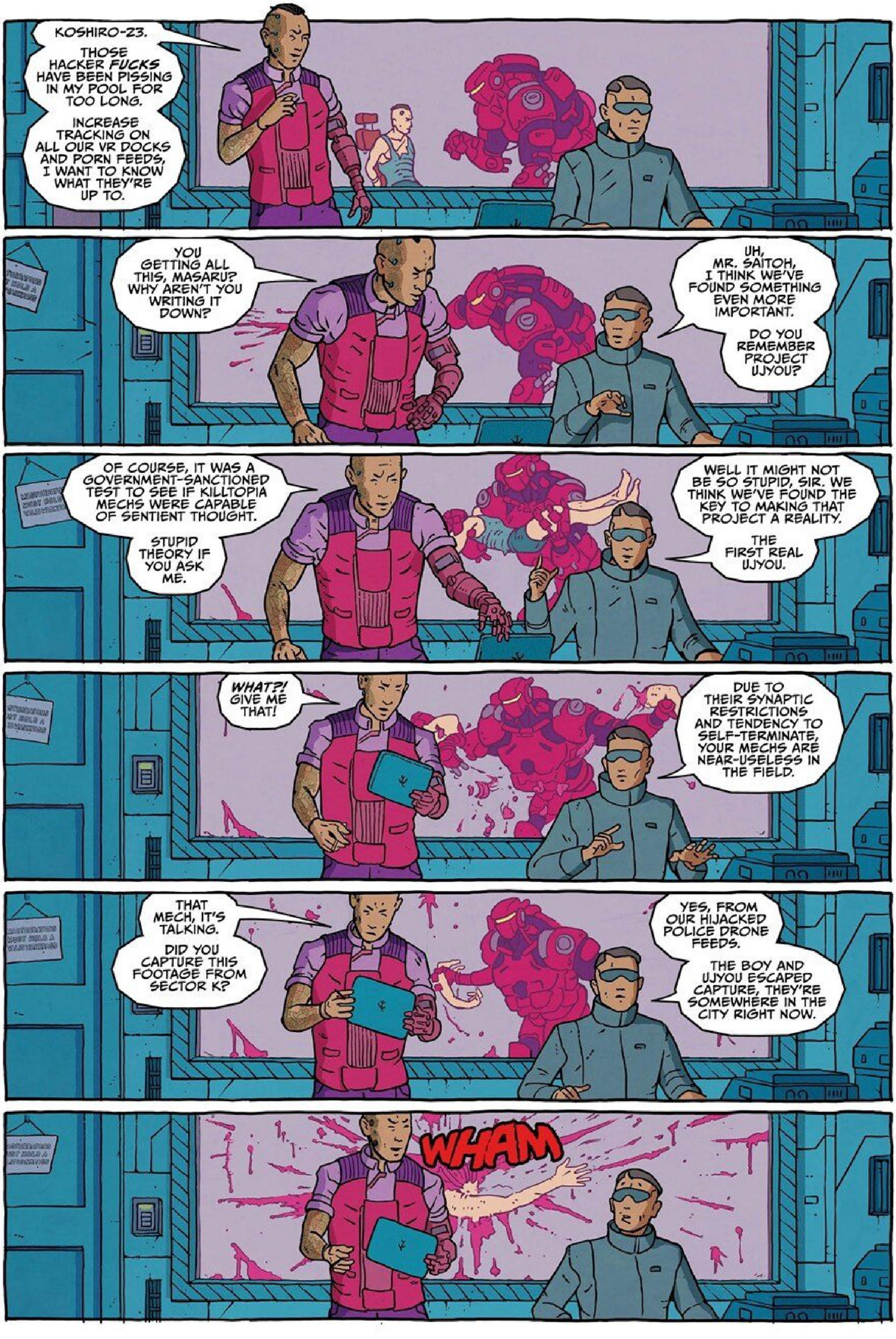
FINE, I'M BEING COOL, SEE?
KA-TISH!
WHAT?! BUT I DIDN'T...
SHIT!
YOU DELAYED MY TERMINATION, BUT IT APPEARS YOU ARE LIKE HIM.
DO YOU ALSO SEEK TO SALVAGE MY PARTS FOR FINANCIAL GAIN?
DON'T SHOOT! I PROMISE I WON'T HURT YOU. I JUST WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE ROT.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT? THE NANO-DISEASE?
NANO-MECHANICAL TECHNOLOGY FUELS OUR CODE.
THE CODE IS OUR LIFEBLOOD.
THE CODE BE PRAISED.

ERR...
HOLD THAT THOUGHT, WE'VE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE *NOW!*
PEACE TIME KILL LOGGED!
IDENTIFYING PERP...
IT'S ILLEGAL TO MURDER WRECKERS IN KILLTOPIA OUTSIDE OF WRECK-FEST.
RUN, ASSHOLE!
ASSHOLE?
DAKKA
09
ポリス
九つ
HALT, SHINJI KAMIYA!
DAKKA
GREETINGS FELLOW AUTOMATONS.
THE CODE BE PRAISED!
C'MON, STUPID!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?
THIS WAY, GET READY TO JUMP!
OH ACTUALLY, CAN YOU SWIM?
OH CRAP, THAT'S NOT GOOD!
SWIM?

TOO LATE!
1110000011000111 000001100111100
TARGET: SHINJI KAMIYA LOST.
NO HEAT SIGNATURES DETECTED.
TRANSMITTING PERP FOOTAGE TO CENTRAL COMMAND.
SPLASH!
ARREST WARRANT GRANTED.
OBJECTIVE: INCARCERATION!

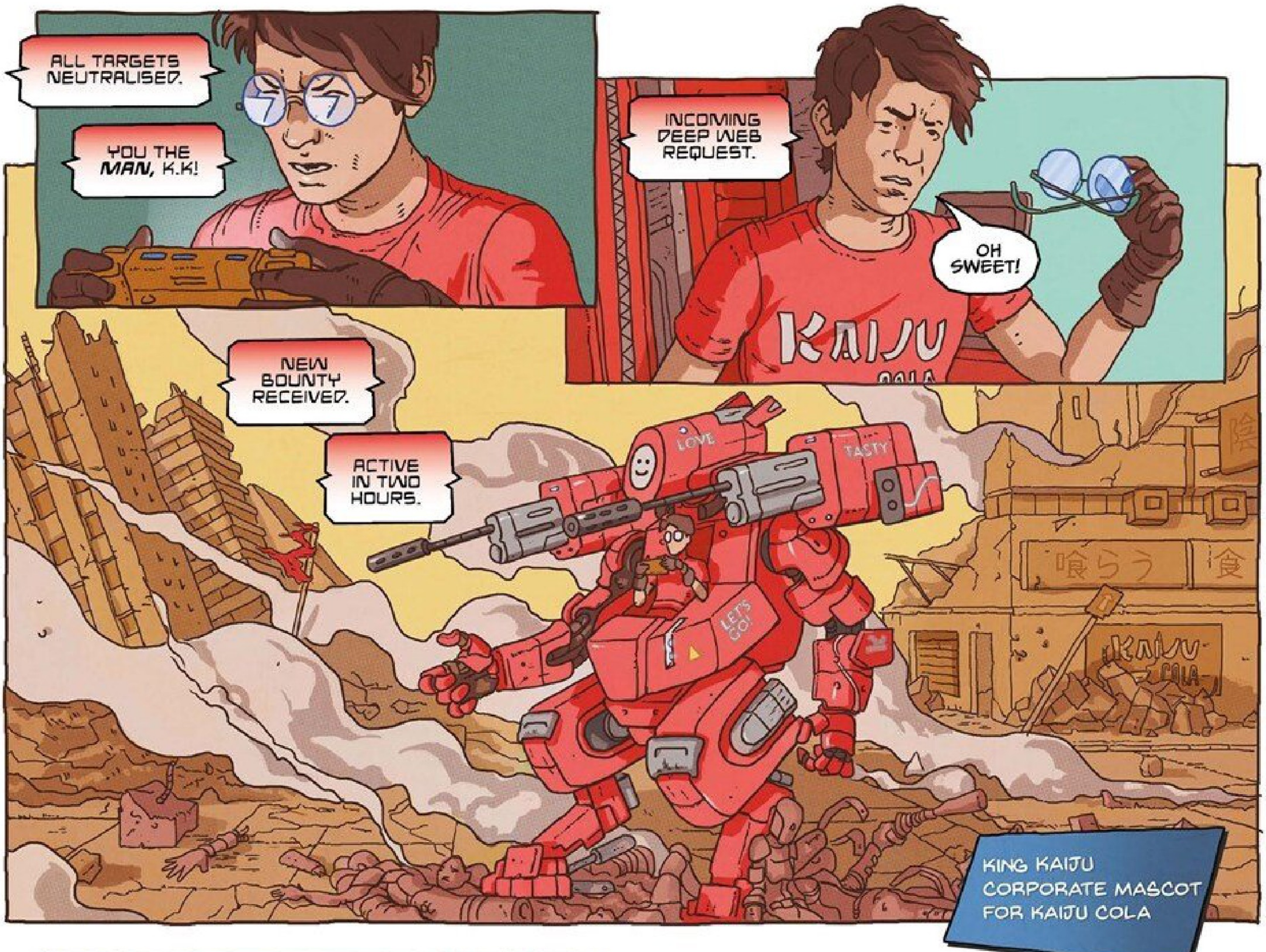

MEANWHILE: LUCKY-7 CORPORATION...
COME ON TADASHI, IT'S NOT SO HARD.
I PAID YOUR CREW TO STEAL SOME MILITARY PROTOTYPES, THEN THE NEXT THING I HEAR THEY'VE BEEN SOLD ON THE BLACK MARKET.
JUST TELL ME WHO HELPED YOU MAKE THE SALE, AND YOU CAN WALK OUT OF HERE WITH YOUR DICK STILL ATTACHED. HOW'S THAT SOUND?
GO... TO HELL.
WHAT'S THE MATTER? HAVING TROUBLE REMEMBERING?
THEN ALLOW MY PET TO JOG YOUR MEMORY.
1111000001111001 00001011000010
HOW CAN I HELP?
db FUNTAR!
HOLY SHIT IT'S TRUE, YOU ARE TRYING TO OVERRIDE MECHS.
I'LL TELL YOU ANYTHING YOU WANT MAN, JUST CALL IT OFF!
THAT EASY? HA!
I THINK YOU NEED A LITTLE REFRESHER ON WHO YOU'RE DEALING WITH.
HMMMPF!

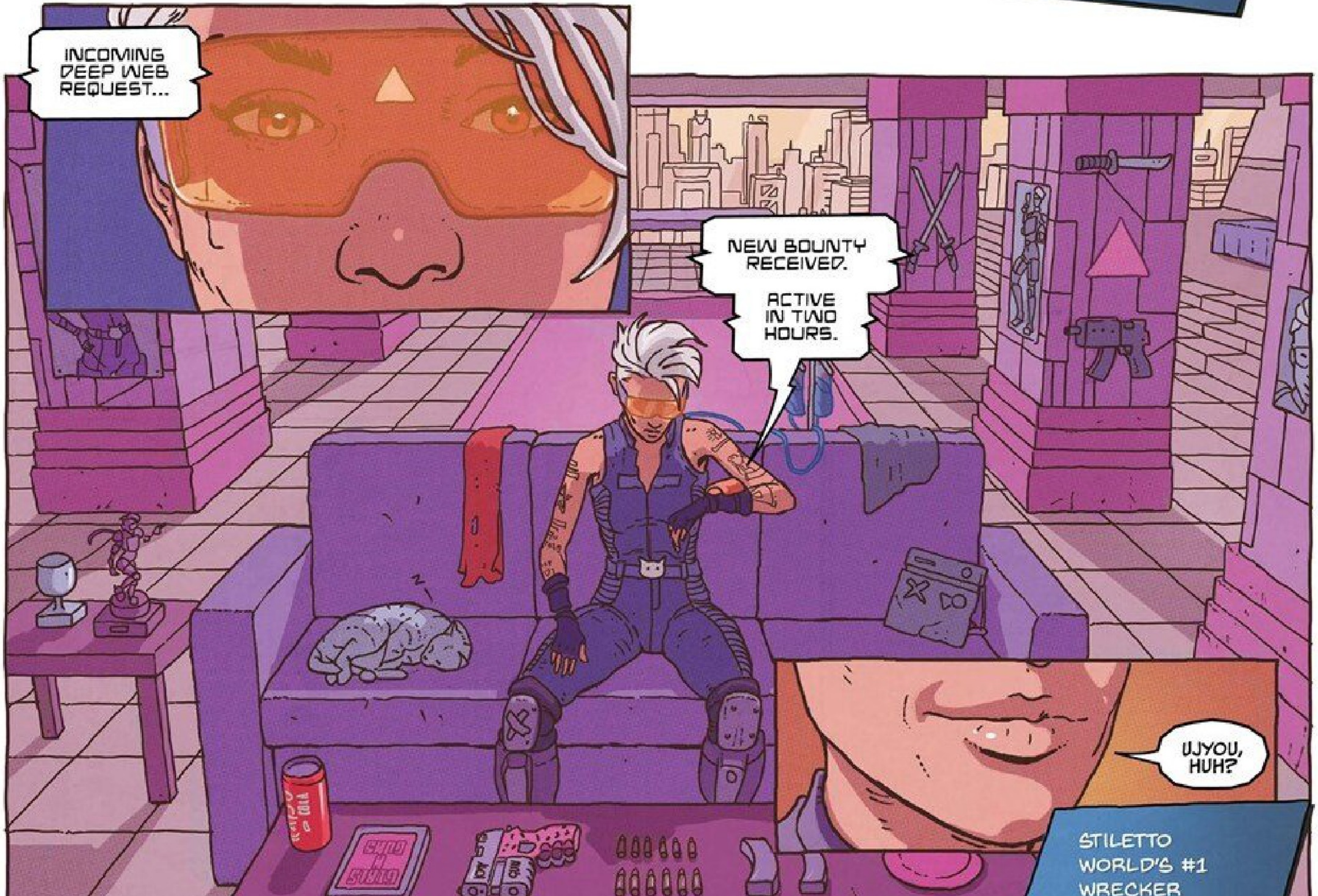
GROOOAAAH!
YES, IT'S TRUE.
I'M BUILDING AN ARMY OF MECHS LOYAL ONLY TO ME, AND I NEEDED THOSE PROTOTYPES TO FURTHER OUR RESEARCH.
CRICH!
I PAY WRECKERS TO SALVAGE MECHS INTACT, AND WE OVERRIDE THEIR BEHAVIOURAL SCRIPTS TO MAKE THEM OBEDIENT.
THE PROCESS KILLS MOST OF THEM, BUT EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE WE GET LUCKY.
MY PROBLEM IS THAT THE FEW MECHS WE SUCCESSFULLY OVERRIDE BECOME SLOW AND KIND OF DUMB.
THEN AFTER A FEW DAYS THEY DELETE THEIR ENTIRE MEMORY STACK, AS IF THEY KNOW THEY'VE BEEN COMPROMISED.
IT'S AS GOOD AS SUICIDE.
RELEASE HIM.
GASP!
READY TO SQUEAL?
WE SOLD YOUR TECH TO KOSHIRO-23!
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHY THEY WANTED IT, MAN, YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE ME!
AH, THERE IT IS. EXCUSE ME FOR A MINUTE.
HEY MECH, IF HE TRIES ANYTHING FUNNY YOU HAVE MY PERMISSION TO PUNCH HIS BRAINS OUT.
ロ
ラッキー7
HOW CAN I HELP?
SAITOH!
I TOLD YOU WANT YOU WANTED, COME ON!


KOSHIRO-23.
THOSE HACKER *FUCKS* HAVE BEEN PISSING IN MY POOL FOR TOO LONG.
INCREASE TRACKING ON ALL OUR VR DOCKS AND PORN FEEDS, I WANT TO KNOW WHAT THEY'RE UP TO.
YOU GETTING ALL THIS, MASARU? WHY AREN'T YOU WRITING IT DOWN?
UH, MR. SAITOH, I THINK WE'VE FOUND SOMETHING EVEN MORE IMPORTANT.
DO YOU REMEMBER PROJECT UJYOU?
OF COURSE, IT WAS A GOVERNMENT-SANCTIONED TEST TO SEE IF KILLTOPIA MECHS WERE CAPABLE OF SENTIENT THOUGHT.
STUPID THEORY IF YOU ASK ME.
WELL IT MIGHT NOT BE SO STUPID, SIR. WE THINK WE'VE FOUND THE KEY TO MAKING THAT PROJECT A REALITY.
THE FIRST REAL UJYOU.
*WHAT?!* GIVE ME THAT!
DUE TO THEIR SYNAPTIC RESTRICTIONS AND TENDENCY TO SELF-TERMINATE, YOUR MECHS ARE NEAR-USELESS IN THE FIELD.
THAT MECH, IT'S TALKING.
DID YOU CAPTURE THIS FOOTAGE FROM SECTOR K?
YES, FROM OUR HIJACKED POLICE DRONE FEEDS.
THE BOY AND UJYOU ESCAPED CAPTURE, THEY'RE SOMEWHERE IN THE CITY RIGHT NOW.
WHAM

GULP!
RIGHT, I'LL ADMIT THAT OUR MECHS AREN'T PERFECT.
WE'LL DEAL WITH THOSE KOSHIRO FUCKS LATER.
DO YOU THINK THE UJYOU IS REALLY SENTIENT? IT WON'T BE SOME HOAX LIKE THOSE OTHER TIMES?
BLAAAH!
RUN, ASSHOLE!
OUR ANALYSIS OF THE FOOTAGE CONCLUSIVELY SHOWS THAT THE MECH HAS A MIND OF ITS OWN.
IF IT CAN SPEAK OUR LANGUAGE, WE COULD USE IT TO FINALLY TRANSLATE THE MECH'S COMPLEX MACHINE CODE.
MASTURBATORS MUST HOLD A VALID WANKPASS
THEN WE COULD OVERWRITE THE MECH'S BEHAVIOURAL SCRIPTS, LOCKING OUT THEIR ABILITY TO SELF TERMINATE.
IT MEANS WE COULD REPROGRAM EVERY MECH IN KILLTOPIA TO OBEY US. WE WOULD BE UNSTOPPABLE.
GOOD. START WITH THE KID; I WANT NAMES, ADDRESSES, RELATIVES, FETISHES, ANYTHING WE CAN USE.
AND PUT A WRECKER BOUNTY OUT ON HIM AND THE UJYOU. ONE OF THOSE TOOLED-UP FREAKS MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND THEM QUICKLY.
CITY-WIDE, ACTIVE IN TWO HOURS, HALF A MILLION CREDITS.
AT ONCE, MR. SAITOH!
THE HUNT IS ON...

INCOMING DEEP WEB REQUEST...
茶道
NEW BOUNTY RECEIVED.
ACTIVE IN TWO HOURS.
ANJIN MK.5 SAVIOUR OF THE WARD 5 SLUMS
INCOMING DEEP WEB REQUEST...
NEW BOUNTY RECEIVED.
ACTIVE IN TWO HOURS.
欠陥
塗料
YUREI THE GHOST [FILE MISSING]


ALL TARGETS NEUTRALISED.
YOU THE *MAN*, K.K!
INCOMING DEEP WEB REQUEST.
OH SWEET!
KAIJU COLA
NEW BOUNTY RECEIVED.
ACTIVE IN TWO HOURS.
LOVE
TASTY
LET'S GO!
喰らう
食
KAIJU COLA
KING KAIJU CORPORATE MASCOT FOR KAIJU COLA


INCOMING DEEP WEB REQUEST...
NEW BOUNTY RECEIVED.
ACTIVE IN TWO HOURS.
UJYOU, HUH?
STILETTO WORLD'S #1 WRECKER

MEANWHILE: THE SEWERS...
IS THIS HOW YOU GAIN ENTRY INTO SECTOR K?
YEAH, I CAN'T AFFORD A WRECKER LICENSE SO I HAVE TO SNEAK IN UNDERGROUND.
NOT THE MOST GLAMOUROUS WAY, BUT I NEED THE MONEY.
AND THIS IS MY WORKSHOP, WHERE I BUILD MY TECH AND GATHER SALVAGE.
I MIGHT HAVE THE RIGHT PARTS TO HELP BUILD YOU A NEW ARM.
AFTER YOU.
I APPRECIATE THIS GESTURE, BUT I MUST ASK: WHY DO YOU RISK YOUR LIFE FOR THE HUNT?
WHY NOT APPLY YOURSELF TO A LESS FATAL VOCATION?
下水道
THERE, FORTY-SIX...
FORTY-SIX TIMES I'VE ENTERED KILLTOPIA AND MADE IT BACK ALIVE.
HAVE I BEEN INJURED, ALMOST KILLED? SURE. BUT I ALWAYS COME BACK FOR MORE.
I DO IT BECAUSE OF HER.
MY SISTER, *OMI.*

SHE CAUGHT AN EPIDEMIC DISEASE CALLED THE ROT.
PEOPLE SOMETIMES GET IT WHEN THEY INHALE NANOMACHINES IN OUR ATMOSPHERE.
RENO'S
I TOOK ALL THE TESTS, AND THANKFULLY, THE TESTS SAY I'M IMMUNE. HOW'S THAT FOR DUMB LUCK?
WHAT CAUSES THE CONDITION?
WHEN MECHS TERRAFORM SECTOR K, YOU DISCHARGE MILLIONS OF NANOMACHINES INTO THE AIR.
THE NANOS THEN CULTIVATE THOSE WEIRD BLUE PLANTS YOU GUYS MAKE FOR FUEL.
BUT WHEN HUMANS INGEST THEM, THE NANOS START TO TERRAFORM THEIR INSIDES AS FAST AS THEY CAN HEAL.
IT MEANS THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE IN THE CITY ARE LITERALLY BEING TORN APART FROM THE INSIDE EVERY HOUR OF EVERY DAY.
ZW
OMI'S HAD THE ROT SINCE SECTOR K COLLAPSED, AND SHE'S GETTING WORSE BY THE YEAR.
I APOLOGISE.
HIGH TECH LOW LIFE
DON'T. YOU HAD NO IDEA.

YOU LIKE THAT, HUH?
IT'S YOURS, THINK OF IT AS MY WAY OF SAYING *'NO HARD FEELINGS.'*
WE NEED TO COVER UP THAT BROKEN ARM OF YOURS ANYWAY.
THIS... IS TOO MUCH,
I CANNOT ACCEPT.
TECH LOW LIFE
NAH IT'S COOL, I WENT THROUGH MY PUNK PHASE LIKE FIVE YEARS AGO. VEGAN-J-GRIME IS WHERE IT'S AT NOW ANYWAY.
THANK YOU, SHINJI.
WELL SURE, I MEAN WHEN PEOPLE DO NICE THINGS FOR EACH OTHER, IT USUALLY MEANS THEY'RE FRIENDS.
HIGH TECH
EFALT
INSIGHT
*BADASS* DUDE! I GOT ONE MORE THING FOR YOU...
HIGH TECH LOW LIFE
SLAP!
GOTTA COVER THAT DENT ON YOUR CHEST MAN, IT'S BUMMING ME OUT.
LLAMA SPIT RIOT ARE THE *SHIT;* FINEST THRASH OUTFIT THIS CITY HAS TO OFFER.
LLAMA SPIT RIOT
THANK YOU. I WILL TREASURE THIS, ALWAYS.

PLEASURE'S ALL MINE, BUD.
BUT LISTEN, I'M GOING TO LEVEL WITH YOU NOW.
PEOPLE IN THE WRECKING BUSINESS USUALLY DON'T LIVE LONG.
BUT THE PRICE OF OMI'S MEDS IS GOING UP, THE CITY'S OVERPOPULATED AND WELL-PAID JOBS ARE RARE.
THAT'S WHY I HUNT MECHS AND SELL THE SALVAGE.
SO I'M STUCK DOING THIS, ALL BECAUSE OUR BRIGHTEST MINDS COULDN'T FIGURE OUT HOW TO DECIPHER YOUR CODED LANGUAGE.
THAT CODE IS THE KEY TO UNDERSTANDING AND REPROGRAMMING THE ROT, AND IT'S GOT US HUMANS BEAT.
BUT YOU...
...YOU CAN TRANSLATE BETWEEN HUMAN AND MECH-SPEAK.
THAT MORON DR. SCRATCH WAS ABOUT TO WRECK YOU AND SELL YOUR CHASSIS FOR CREDITS, BUT I SAVED YOU BECAUSE I HAD AN IDEA.

IF I TOOK YOU TO OMI, COULD YOU TRANSLATE THE MACHINE CODE SCRIPTS RUNNING HER NANOS AND, WELL...
...TELL THEM TO STOP?
HUMANS MAY VIEW MY KIND AS SAVAGES, BUT I DO HAVE A FIRM UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONCEPTS YOU CALL *'HONOUR'* AND *'LOYALTY.'*
YOU CAME TO MY AID, SO I WILL REPAY YOUR KINDNESS BY APPRAISING YOUR SIBLING'S CONDITION. IF YOU TOOK ME TO HER, I BELIEVE THERE IS A 70% CHANCE I WOULD BE ABLE TO HELP.
TAKING YOU TOPSIDE WORKS FINE, CAUSE THIS ARM'S BUSTED ANYWAY.
I GOT A BUDDY UP THERE WHO'LL PATCH YOU UP IN NO TIME.
THEN I'LL TAKE YOU TO OMI.
BUT LISTEN, ONCE WE'RE ON THE SURFACE YOU'VE GOT TO TRY AND ACT MORE *SUBDUED.*
THE CITY'S BEEN REPROGRAMMING MECHS TO WORK MENIAL JOBS, BUT THEY'RE SLOW, LIKE THEY'VE HAD A LOBOTOMY OR SOME SHIT.
SO THAT MEANS NO TALKING, AND DEFINITELY NO ARM CANNONS.
AFFIRMATIVE.
RENO'S
RADIATION FREE
REINDEER STEAKS

セクター-L
WELCOME...
...TO THE CITY.
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
I HAVE NEVER BEFORE PROCESSED SUCH A *CACOPHONY* OF NOISE AND COLOUR.
IS THIS WHAT IT MEANS TO *LIVE?*
LET'S GO!
NERO
WREST
3 MONT
SECTOR-L
Eden
セクター-L
Kanatonic
COOK
SECTO
ラッキー7
ビデオゲ
賭
THE HEAP
暖かい食べ物
KAIJU
ラーメン
うどん
MEAT
HIGH TECH LOW LIFE
450 A
セクター-L
SECTO
THE HEAP: SECTOR L SALVAGE DISTRICT...

WHAT YOU LOOKING AT? FUCKING ROT-BREATHER.
AS THE UPPER WARDS PREPARE FOR THEIR DECADENT GLADIATOR GAMES, WE STAY CONDEMNED TO BREATHE IN THIS *TOXIC* AIR.
INHALE DEEP OF THE NANOSCOPIC FEAST, AND SPIN THE POISONED WHEEL OF FATE.
BE COOL. I KNOW THIS IS A LOT TO TAKE IN.
"THERE ARE NO WORKING AIR PURIFIERS LEFT TO SOOTHE YOU, MY CHILDREN OF THE LOWER WARDS, ONLY THE BURN OF TOXIC RAIN AND STING OF COLLAPSING FLESH.
"CARNAL RELEASE KEEPS YOU DISTRACTED FROM YOUR NEON-SCORCHED GRAVEYARDS, FOR MENTALLY-DAMAGING SEX COMES AT NO LARGE COST DOWN HERE."
TAKEOUT
春木屋 B-1
REA51
TOXIC SCUM
VR LUST
警察庁 POLICE
HOT BUNNY LUV
2019 BLE TH RO
アダルトDVD
CHRISTIAN SEXSHOP
TURBO LOVER

FIRE TAIL
GOOD FOOD
"THOUGH YOU WILL MAKE NO MARK ON HISTORY'S TATTERED PARCHMENT, KNOW YOUR INSIGNIFICANCE RENDERS YOU IMMUNE FROM JUDGMENT.
The Stripped Bolt
ザ・フーデニング
The Foodening
"FOR WE ARE UNSHACKLED...
WORKFEST
警察庁
POLICE
YOU'RE FUCKED
警察庁
POLICE
YOU'RE FUCKED
"...WE ARE GENERATION FUCKED."
BANG!
BANG!
ARE YOU NUTS, SHINJI?
THERE'S A GODDAMN RIOT OUTSIDE, GET IN HERE!
WHAT THE FUCK IS THAT ROT-BREATHER DOING IN MY SHOP?
WOAH, WOAH, EASY REKA.
HE'S WITH ME.
HE?
NO PERMIT NO SALE
NO MERCY

YEAH HE... ERR, DO YOU HAVE A NAME, BUD?
YES, BUT ITS HEXADECIMAL CHARACTER SETS ARE TOO VAST FOR HUMAN BRAINS TO COMPREHEND, TO WITHIN EVEN ONE TENTH OF ITS TOTAL LENGTH, THEREBY--
THAT'S... *GREAT* MAN, BUT REALLY NOT HELPING.
WHAT ABOUT THE FIRST 16 HEX DIGITS?
CR45-H937-B48X--
HOLD UP, *CRASH?*
HOW ABOUT *'CRASH,'* ON ACCOUNT OF YOUR ARM BEING BUSTED?
SHUT THE FUCK UP, THE PAIR OF YOU!
SHINJI, PLEASE TELL ME THIS MECH ISN'T SENTIENT.
CORRECT ANALYSIS: THIS UNIT BEARS CONSCIOUS THOUGHT.
CRAP...
I KNOW, LISTEN...
COP DRONES RECORDED FOOTAGE OF US IN KILLTOPIA. THERE'S PROBABLY A BOUNTY OUT ALREADY.
COULD YOU REACH OUT TO YOUR CONTACTS ON THE FORCE AND ASK THEM TO SCRUB THE WARRANT, FOR OLD TIME'S SAKE?

URK!
YOU TOLD ME YOU WERE DONE WITH THIS WRECKING SHIT. WHAT IF THOSE DRONES HAD GUNNED YOU DOWN?
WHAT WOULD OMI DO THEN, HUH?
CRASH THINKS HE CAN SHUT DOWN THE NANOS IN OMI'S SYSTEM, AND ONCE HE DOES I'LL STOP WRECKING.
IN RETURN, I JUST NEED YOU TO PATCH UP HIS ARM AND KEEP HIM HERE OVERNIGHT.
I HAVE WRECKERS IN HERE SELLING THEIR SALVAGE DAY IN, DAY OUT, AND YOU WANT ME TO JUST HIDE AN ILLEGAL MECH RIGHT UNDER THEIR NOSES?!
LAST PLACE THEY'D THINK TO LOOK, RIGHT?
FINE, I'LL GET MY GUY TO NUKE YOUR WARRANT, AND I'LL FIX YOUR BUDDY.
AWESOME!
AWESOME!
BUT SHINJI, IF CRASH CAN REALLY CURE THE ROT, ISN'T THAT SOMETHING YOU SHOULD SHARE WITH THE WHOLE CITY?
2391
PROXIMITY WARNING
NERO

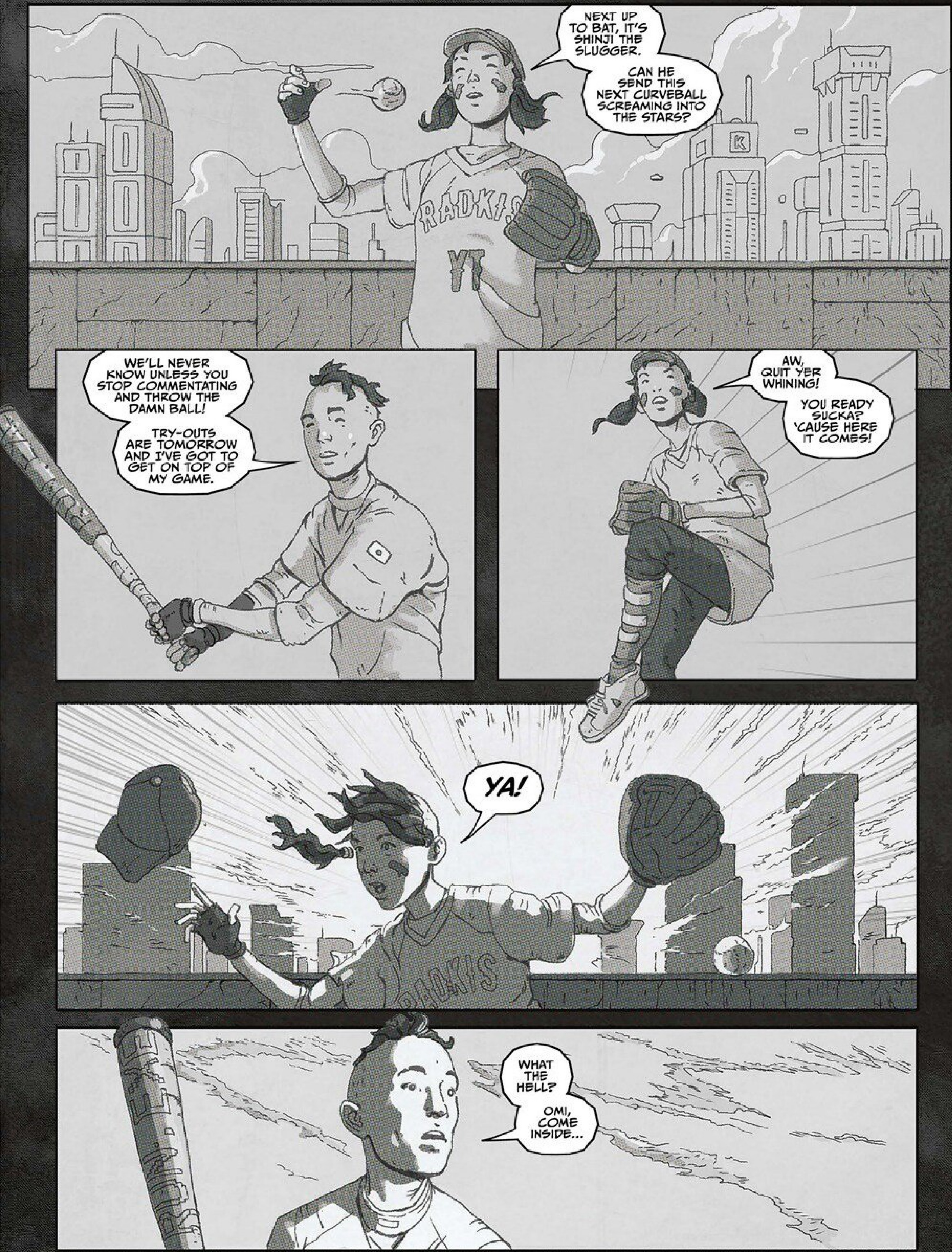
OH REKA, HONEY, WHAT A WONDERFUL PRIZE YOU'VE STUMBLED ACROSS.
OF COURSE IF ANYONE'S GOING TO CURE THE ROT IT SIMPLY HAS TO BE THE NUMBER ONE WRECKER IN TOWN.
BUT FIRST...
YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN TO SNEAK UP ON A HEAVILY-ARMED LADY.
HANDS UP, DICKHEAD! THAT BOUNTY IS MINE.
I ♥ MY GUN
I DON'T THINK SO.
BLAM
YAAAA!

YOU CAN'T KILL ME...
不運
...IT'S *PEACETIME.*
STILE
FUCK Y
THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH WRECKERS TODAY.
TOO MANY ***AMATEURS*** GIVING US PROS A BAD NAME.
THWIP
YOU ALL THINK YOU CAN BE THE NEXT STILETTO, JUST BECAUSE YOU KNOW HOW TO PULL A TRIGGER.
I'VE GIVEN ***SWEAT, BLOOD*** AND ***BROKEN BONES*** FOR THIS LIFE, SO I AIN'T ABOUT TO DIE AT THE HANDS OF SOME JUMPED-UP CLICHE IN A FUCKING ***TRENCHCOAT.***
GRUAAAH!

PLEASE, DON'T...
OH AND FYI, PEACETIME ONLY APPLIES TO KILLTOPIA, *MORON.*
vROOOOOO!
SCHIIING!

NOW THEN, BACK TO THE TASK AT HAND.
"THE RIOT'S DIED DOWN.
"I NEED TO GET HOME AND GIVE OMI HER SHOTS. YOU SURE YOU HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO FIX CRASH?"
*DUDE,* REMEMBER WHO YOU'RE TALKING TO.
YOU JUST GO AND HANDLE YOUR SHIT, I'LL HAVE THIS GUY RUNNING GOOD AS NEW BY TOMORROW.
GOOD AS NEW!
MILK LIZARD
THANKS, I OWE YOU ONE.
SEE YOU IN A FEW HOURS.
LET'S *JAM.*

ST GOD'S
42
NOW APPROACHING SECTOR S, LEVEL THREE...
WE WOULD LIKE TO AGAIN REMIND ALL VAGRANTS TRAVELLING WITH US TODAY TO REFRAIN FROM SEXUAL ACTIVITY IN THE DESIGNATED PASSENGER AREAS.
エクスプレスセクターS-3
EXPRESS SECTOR S-3
RENOS RADIATION FREE REINDEER STEAKS
WRECKFEST
18


NEXT UP TO BAT, IT'S SHINJI THE SLUGGER.
CAN HE SEND THIS NEXT CURVEBALL SCREAMING INTO THE STARS?
RADKIS
YT
K
WE'LL NEVER KNOW UNLESS YOU STOP COMMENTATING AND THROW THE DAMN BALL!
TRY-OUTS ARE TOMORROW AND I'VE GOT TO GET ON TOP OF MY GAME.
AW, QUIT YER WHINING!
YOU READY SUCKA? 'CAUSE HERE IT COMES!
YA!
RADKIS
WHAT THE HELL?
OMI, COME INSIDE...

WHAT IS IT?
JAPAN
RAOKIS
YT
I DON'T KNOW.
JUST... COME ON.
BUT WHAT ABOUT MOM AND DAD?

NOW STOPPING AT SECTOR S-3.
BWA! MUST HAVE DRIFTED OFF...
セクターSメトロ METRO SECTOR-S
住宅地 RESIDENTIAL
ヒト以外お断り
KAIJU - OKK
OFF WORLD
THANKS FOR RIDING WITH US.
HAVE A GOOD ONE!
GUY UPSTAIRS MUST BE HAVING ANOTHER COSPLAY SEX ORGY.
GREAT...
AMIS GO HOME
HOME, SUCKY, HOME...
2097
ROT SCUM
GRUUOOOOAHHH!

SHINJI... UGH... PLEASE, HURRY!
NNNNNNGH!
I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT SHE'S FEELING RIGHT NOW.
BUT THIS CAN'T CONTINUE.
THE PRICE OF TERRA-AID INJECTIONS KEEPS RISING, AND KILLTOPIA'S GETTING TOO COMPETITIVE.
WITHOUT RELIABLE TECH OR SPONSORS, THE AMOUNT OF SALVAGE I CAN SELL GETS SMALLER BY THE MONTH.
GRYAAAAAH!
BUT ONCE CRASH CURES HER, THE ROT WON'T BE OUR PROBLEM ANY MORE.
WE CAN MOVE ON WITH OUR LIVES.

ONE INJECTION LATER...
FEELING BETTER?
LAMPSPIT RIOT
YEAH, BUT THE DOSE ISN'T HAVING THE SAME *KICK.* I THINK WE NEED TO GO FOR A HIGHER STRENGTH.
ANYWAY, HOW WAS WORK? DID YOU TALK WITH YOUR BOSS?
I TOLD HIM THAT HE COULD OVERCLOCK THE AIR PURIFIERS IN SECTOR J USING CARBON FIBRE ROTORS. THE BLADES WOULD BE STRONGER BUT LIGHTER, MEANING THEY COULD SPIN FASTER WITHOUT NEEDING MORE POWER.
*AND?* IS HE GONNA GO FOR IT?
NAH. TOO EXPENSIVE, HE SAID.
I HATE LYING TO HER ABOUT WHERE I GO EACH DAY.
DON'T WORRY BRO, ONE DAY SOMEONE IS GOING TO PAY YOU PROPERLY FOR THAT TECHNICAL BRAIN OF YOURS. JUST KEEP WORKING HARD AND IT'LL HAPPEN, I'M SURE.
THANKS. YOU WANT SOMETHING TO EAT?
*HECK YES,* AND SHINJI...
I'M PROUD OF YOU, MAN. KEEP YOUR HEAD UP, I KNOW HOW ROUGH IT IS OUT THERE.
HERE COMES A NEW CHALLENGER

MOEBIUS
SMELLS *GREAT!*
AND EXPENSIVE...
DON'T WORRY, I GOT SOME OVERTIME CREDITS TODAY, SO TONIGHT'S MENU IS PASTA FROM THAT ITALIAN IMPORT PLACE YOU LIKE. MY TREAT.
FIGHT!
MMM, *ISH* REALLY *GHOOD!*
THIS IS WHAT I LIVE FOR.
*WHAT?*
THESE MOMENTS ARE A GIFT, BEFORE THE NANOS IN OMI'S BLOOD REBOOT AND START TEARING HER APART.
YOU'RE A GROWN ADULT AND YOU STILL CAN'T EAT MESSY FOOD PROPERLY.
OH *PISS OFF.*
KNOCK KNOCK
ARE YOU EXPECTING ANYONE?

FSSHHH...
IT MIGHT BE REKA, I ASKED HER TO FIND SOME PARTS FOR MY, UHH... BOSS.
WHAM!
SHINJI KAMIYA.
YOU'VE BEEN A BAD BOY. DON'T YOU KNOW WRECKING WITHOUT A LICENSE COMES WITH HIGH PENALTIES?
13
GET THE FUCK OUT OR I'M CALLING THE POLICE.
AH YES, GO AHEAD.
I'M SURE THEY'LL HAPPILY DROP EVERYTHING AND RUSH TO HELP A PAIR OF SECTOR-K ORPHANS DOWN IN THE THIRD WARDS.
YOUR BROTHER HAS PROBLEMS THAT EVEN THE POLICE CAN'T FIX.
BUT I CAN.

I KNOW YOU TOOK THE SENTIENT MECH OUT OF KILLTOPIA.
I KNOW SOMEONE HAS ALREADY SCRUBBED YOUR ARREST WARRANT.
BUT THEY MISSED MY HALF A MILLION OPEN BOUNTY CURRENTLY ON YOUR HEAD.
I'M LISTENING.
CONSIDER THE BOUNTY A LITTLE INCENTIVE TO KICK YOUR STUPID ASS INTO GEAR.
BRING ME THE MECH FIRST, AND I'LL CALL IT OFF.
YOU'D BE SAVING YOUR LIFE AND YOU'D SAVE ME FROM PAYING THE REWARD. IT'S WIN-WIN WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT.
HERE'S MY CARD.
YOU HAVE SIX HOURS UNTIL THE BOUNTY IS IMMOVABLE.
BRING THE UJYOU TO ME INTACT AND WE'LL PRETEND THIS NEVER HAPPENED.
FAIL, AND WE'LL PUT YOUR SISTER OUT OF HER MISERY.
I'LL BE WATCHING.
LUCKY 7
YOU'RE A *WRECKER?*

YOU'LL HAVE LIMITED FUNCTIONALITY FOR A WHILE, BUT YOU SHOULD BE FINE.
DIAGNOSTICS SEEM POSITIVE, THANK YOU REKA. I DO NOT KNOW HOW TO REPAY THIS ACT OF KINDNESS.
JUST PROMISE TO STAY PUT AND DON'T TOUCH *ANYTHING* WHILE I GO OUT FOR A SMOKE, DEAL?
DEAL.
ILK
ARD
配達
'SUP REKZ?
BEEN A WHILE.
I ♥ MY GUN
STILETTO, NICE OF YOU TO REMEMBER US LITTLE PEOPLE.
CUT THE CHAT, THIS IS A JOB.
I WANT THE UJYOU.
STILETTO
FUCK YOU

NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, BABE.
I FIGURED YOU WOULDN'T.
SORRY DOLL, BUT ME AND THE MACHINE AND I HAVE SOME SHIT TO DISCUSS.
THWACK
URK!
I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE, UJYOU. I'VE GOT A PROPOSITION FOR YOU.
I'M COMING IN, SO JUST BE *COOL* AND LET'S TALK.
I ♥ MY GUN
ADVANCE FURTHER AND I'LL SHOOT... *WRECKER...*
WELL NOW, THIS IS *INTERESTING.*
HIGH TECH LOW LIFE
DARROW
GOOD/FOOD
FIRE TAIL
KAIJU COLA
BANG!
WRECKFEST
ザ・フーデニング The Foodening
焼きそば
KAIJU COLA

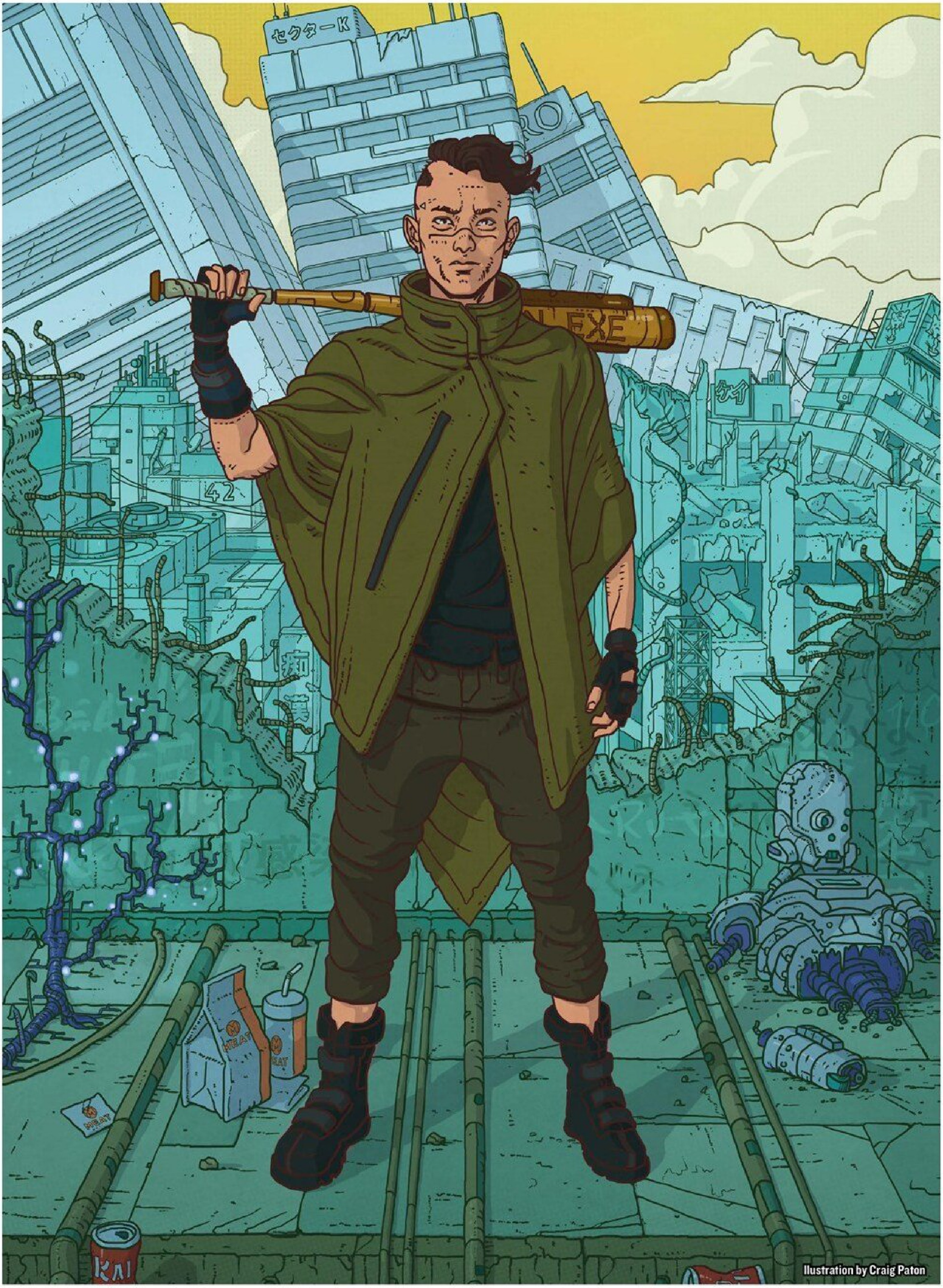

セクター K
RO
EXE
42
ケイ
痴
漢
MEAT
MEAT
MEAT
KAI

Illustration by Craig Paton

SoftBank
東京
HELLO WORLD
HIGH TECH LOW LIFE
KILLTOPIA
キラー市

Illustration by Laurie Greasley

KAIJU — COLA
"KAIJU COLA IS MORE THAN A REFRESHING SOFT DRINK."
JUST A LITTLE FURTHER.
KAIJU — COLA
"IT BRINGS FAMILIES TOGETHER."
KAIJU 24 — COLA
K
HOLD YOUR HAND THERE A MOMENT AND THE SALE WILL BE COMPLETED.
MOMMY!!
⇦処理
"IT'S YOUR HAPPY PLACE IN A CAN.*"
*Your dentist is also a liar.

"IT'S HELPING TO BUILD A BETTER TOMORROW.
KAIJU COLA
GROOAAAAAAAH!
"OUR FULLY AUTOMATED WRECKER CREW JOINS THE BATTLE TO SALVAGE ADVANCED MECH TECHNOLOGY!
KING KAIJU
怪獣王
"PRESENTING THE KAIJU COLA MONARCHS!"
"LOWERING FACEPLATE."
KAIJU COLA
波をキャッチ
KAIJU COLA
"SUBMIT TO THE TASTE OF KAIJU COLA.
"MEET YOUR NEW GOD."
"FUSION COMPLETE.
CLUNK!
"KING KAIJU: SUPER VEHICLE-001 READY FOR DEPLOYMENT."

PRESENT DAY...
OKAY ZENTRADI.
ACCORDING TO SAITOH'S BOUNTY, THE MECH WE'RE LOOKING FOR CAN TALK.
SO HOW ABOUT WE BROAD-SWEEP THE SECTOR FOR MECH SOUNDWAVES EMITTING HUMAN SPEECH PATTERNS?
NEGATIVE. ZERO SIGNALS FOUND.
NERO
WRECKFEST
MEAT
クレイグ
47
NE RV
WELL SHIT, YOU'RE AN AI, CAN'T YOU FIGURE OUT WHERE THE UJYOU'S HIDING?
MISSION COMMAND'S GIVING ME DIDDLY SQUAT TO WORK WITH.
KAIJU COLA
26
WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE, K.K.
BY THEIR NATURE, MECHS DO NOT CROSS KILLTOPIA'S BORDERS UNLESS EXTRACTED BY WRECKERS.
NEW THEORY: PROJECT UJYOU WILL EVENTUALLY RETURN TO SECTOR K INSTINCTIVELY.
SHLUCK!
THAT'S PRETTY VAGUE, BUT IT'S ALL WE'VE GOT TO GO ON.
LET'S LOOK FURTHER OUT, BUT KEEP SCANNING SECTOR K FOR UNUSUAL FREQUENCIES.
OH AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, EJECT THIS EMPTY CAN FOR ME, WILL YA?
KAIJU
KAIJU COLA
HEY, ZENTRADI...
YOU THINK I COULD GET A CUT OF THE BOUNTY THIS TIME?

NEGATIVE.
AS PROPERTY OF THE KAIJU COLA MEGACORP, COMPANY MASCOTS ARE LEGALLY NOT ENTITLED TO A PERCENTAGE OF WRECKER CONTRACTS, COMPANY SHARES OR OTHER REVENUE STREAMS, INCLUDING--
OKAY, YEAH, THANKS.
I GOT IT.
FOOM!
FIGURED YOU'D SAY THAT.
THE HEAP: REKA'S PLACE...
DARROW
FOOD
67BOX
TAIL
The Stripped Bolt
焼きそば
CRM114
WRECKFEST X
I ♥ MY GUN
KAIJU
YOU'VE GOT A FEW HOURS BEFORE THE BOUNTY ON YOUR HEAD GOES PUBLIC.
WHEN IT DOES, EVERY WRECKER IN THIS CITY WILL COME DOWN ON YOU AND YOUR BUDDY SHINJI LIKE AN ATOM BOMB FILLED WITH HOT SHIT.
SO HOW ABOUT WE CUT A DEAL?
DEAL?

"YOUR KIND HAS HUNTED US LIKE ANIMALS SINCE THE BEGINNING.
"I AM AFRAID THE TIME FOR MAKING DEALS HAS PASSED.
"THE CODE FORBIDS US FROM PROVOKING HUMANS, YET WE HAVE ENDURED YEARS OF SLAUGHTER.
"WE COWER, RUN AND DIE, SIMPLY TO SATISFY THE WRECKERS' THIRST FOR AMUSEMENT AND WEALTH.
"I HAVE SEEN SCORES OF MECHS CUT DOWN TO SCRAP, SO I BELIEVED THAT ALL HUMANS WERE OUR ENEMY.
"THAT CHANGED WHEN I MET A KIND, CARING PERSON.
"SHINJI KAMIYA.
"HE EXPLAINED THAT HUMANITY DETESTS US BECAUSE OF THE ROT, AND THAT OUR MERE PRESENCE ON THIS PLANET HAD CRIPPLED YOUR ENTIRE SPECIES.
"HIS WORDS CAUSED ME TO FEEL EMPATHETIC TOWARDS HUMANS FOR THE FIRST TIME.
"BUT YOU DO NOT DESERVE MY EMPATHY, STILETTO.
"THE PROFITS YOU REAP FROM MURDERING MY KIN ARE BEYOND MEASURE."
STILETTO
WRECKFEST CHAMPION VII
50 KILLS AND COUNTING

YOU KNOW MY NAME?
"THE CODE SENDS WHISPERS OF YOUR DEEDS THROUGHOUT THE HIVE MIND. IT RIPPLES AND HOWLS IN AGONY WHEN ONE OF US IS TERMINATED.
"HOW COULD WE IGNORE THAT PAIN WHEN YOU WERE ALWAYS THERE, WATCHING OVER US.
"SMILING."
STILETTO
WRECKFEST CHAMPION VII
50 KILLS AND COUNTING
PTWOOOOOOOO!
YOU ARE OUR ENEMY, AND THAT MEANS YOU CANNOT BE TRUSTED!
KINETIC WRAPPING, MAXIMUM ABSORPTION!
MAKE MINE MISO
BANG!
HEY, DID YOU HEAR THAT?
WAS THAT A GUNSHOT?
HOLY SHIT!
GET BACK!

LOOK OUT!
MY CART!
CRUNCH!
OH, HEY FANS. ⪢COUGH⪡
I'M OKAY, JUST ONE OF MY TRAINING BOTS SET TO 'HURT ME PLENTY' MODE.
REAL NASTY STUFF, BUT NOTHING YOUR PAL STILETTO CANT HANDLE, AM I RIGHT?
STILETTO!
PRO TIP, SWEETHEART.
NEVER TURN DOWN A LADY WHO'S PACKING ENOUGH FIREPOWER TO LEVEL A SMALL COUNTRY.
戦い
IT'S JUST.
NOT!
POLITE!
THWIP!
SNATCH!
ENOUGH!
HEY MAN, DID THAT MECH TALK, OR HAS THIS CRYSTAL JUST KICKED IN?
KEEP FILMING DUDE, THIS IS HILARIOUS!
Eden
WHO CARES? STILETTO IS GETTING HER ASS BEAT.
IT'S WELL FUTILE.

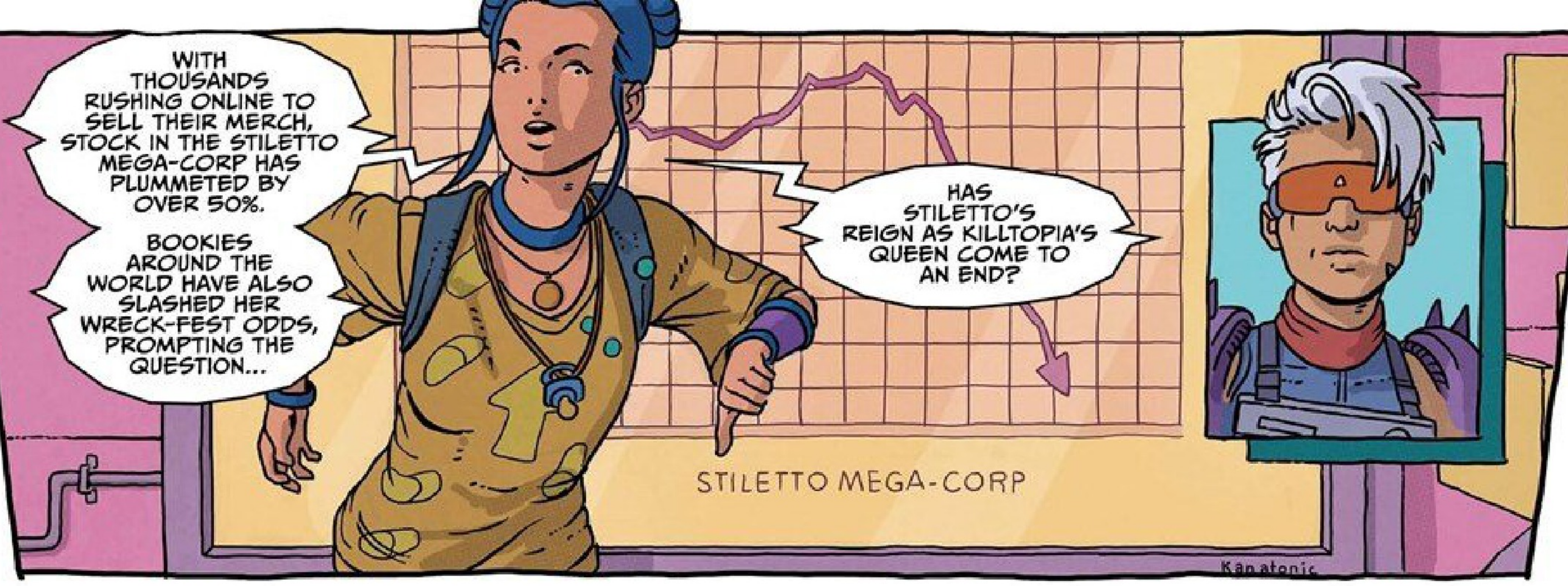
WHAM!
COME ON, STILETTO, I THOUGHT YOU WERE TOUGH!
WHAT A HACK-FRAUD!
LOL! SUCH A LOSER!
SHIT, IT'S ACTUALLY GOING TO KILL HER!
URK!
LEAVE HER ALONE, ROT-BREATHER!
DR SCRATCH MEMORIAL ORGY
I SHOULD KILL YOU WHERE YOU STAND, BUT THEY MUST SEE THAT MECHS MEAN HUMANS NO HARM.
SO I URGE YOU TO DROP THE BOUNTY.
FORGET YOU EVER SAW ME AND I WILL LET YOU LIVE.
TEMPTING, BUT I HAVE AN IMAGE TO UPHOLD.
BY THE WAY, WHERE'S MY OTHER HAND?
HUH?
HEH, IDIOT.
MAX-STRENGTH STUN SLUGS!
BLAM
10101011001 01101100111 01010111001 1
NIGHTY NIGHT!
DR SCRATCH MEMORIAL ORGY

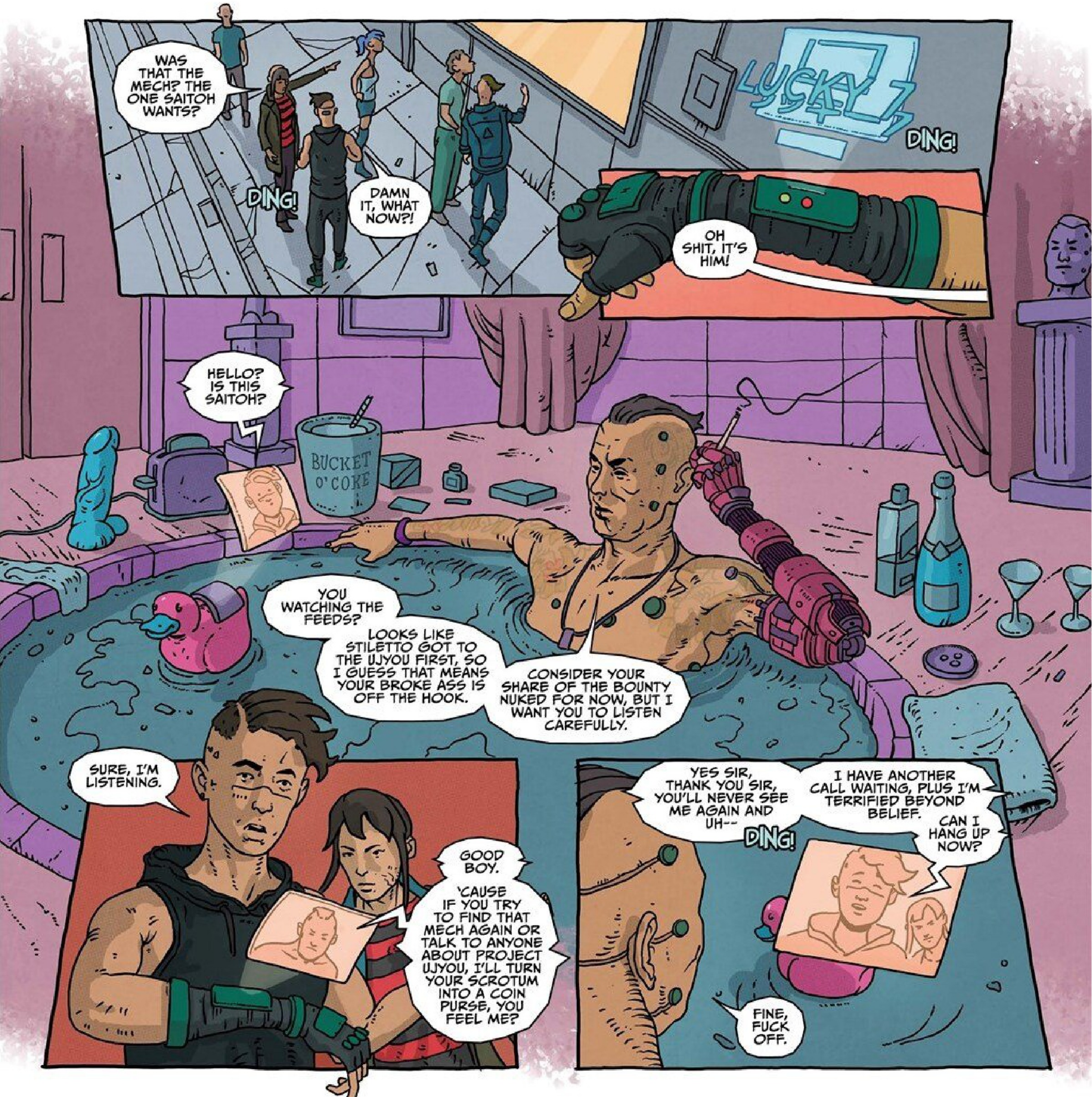
WOAH, SHE ACTUALLY DID IT!
NOW I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK...
I MEAN, SHE'S STILL PRETTY COOL, I GUESS.
YEAH, SHE'S NOT THAT SHIT AFTER ALL.
GOD, I FUCKING LOVE HER.
LISTEN UP, BOYS.
I NEED A HAULAGE CREW DOWN AT THE HEAP, DOUBLE-TIME.
DON'T DRAG YOUR DICKS. I'VE GOT SOMETHING EXTRA TASTY.
"I'M SENDING YOU MY COORDINATES NOW."
WRECKFEST
S7-
D-AZ
*Yurei, the Ghost*
*[file missing]*
M

THE ENVOY HAS FALLEN INTO HUMAN HANDS.
AN UNFORTUNATE DEVELOPMENT.
WHY HAS IT NOT GIVEN THE FINAL COMMAND?
PLEASE, LET ME GO. I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE UJYOU.
TRANSFER ME, DELETE ME, WHATEVER YOU WANT.
I JUST DON'T WANT TO BE A PASSENGER ANYMORE.
Eden
69
SILENCE.
ANOTHER WORD AND I WILL SELF-TERMINATE.
KAIJU
I JUST WANT YOU OUT.
OF.
MY.
HEAD!
Eden
CRUNCH!
[ YUREI 83: OFFLINE ]
"TRANSFERRING PRIME CONTROL TO YUREI 256..."

CHATSUBA
MAID CAFE
空山
空山
256 ACCEPTS PRIME CONTROL.
I SEE THE BOY AND HIS SIBLING.
44
I SEE THEM TOO.
REMEMBER: THE CODE FORBIDS DIRECT INTERFERENCE WITH THE ENVOY'S PATH.
THE CODE IS OUR LIFEBLOOD, THE CODE BE PRAISED.
HURK!
LOSE WEIGHT FAST!
GORO'S TAPEWORM FARM
WILL YOU STOP FOR JUST A MOMENT AND TELL ME WHERE THE HELL WE'RE GOING?
I MEAN, SOME YAKUZA GUY WANTS YOU DEAD, AND YOU'VE BEEN WRECKING MECHS BEHIND MY BACK.
I THINK THAT DESERVES AT LEAST A QUICK CHAT, DON'T YOU?
KING!
WRECKFEST
YOU'RE RIGHT, BUT I SERIOUSLY NEED TO GET YOU SOMEWHERE SAFE BEFORE SAITOH'S BOUNTY GOES PUBLIC.
I CAN'T LET YOU GET CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE OF MY FUCK UP, AND BESIDES--

"IS THE FABLED PROJECT UJYOU NO LONGER A MYTH?
CHAOS IN THE HEAP DISTRICT TONIGHT MAY HAVE GIVEN US FRESH EVIDENCE."
OH CRAP...
WHAT NOW?
YO WHAT IS UP GUYS?
KAZUE HERE WITH ANOTHER WRECK FEST PRE-SHOW INFO-BOMB.
THE 'NET IS LIGHTING UP WITH NEWS THAT STILETTO JUST GOT SERVED A SEVERE BEATDOWN IN SECTOR L BY A TRAINING BOT THAT WENT HAYWIRE.
STILETTO
BUT DRONE FEEDS SENT TO US MINUTES AGO SHOW THE MECH TALKING AND ACTING LIKE A HUMAN.
CH-CH-CHECK IT!!
ENOUGH!
"NEAT SHIT, HUH? BUT LET'S GET TO THE REAL ISSUE.
"THE FOOTAGE SHOWS STILETTO LOOKING TIRED AND OUT OF PRACTICE, WITH HER TRADEMARK BALLS OF STEEL NOWHERE TO BE SEEN."
UH YEAH, SHE GOT HER ASS GANKED HARD, SON.
I FELT SO PERSONALLY BETRAYED AND OFFENDED BY HER PERFORMANCE, THAT I JUST LISTED ALL MY STILETTO MERCH FOR SALE ON PAY BAY.


WITH THOUSANDS RUSHING ONLINE TO SELL THEIR MERCH, STOCK IN THE STILETTO MEGA-CORP HAS PLUMMETED BY OVER 50%.
BOOKIES AROUND THE WORLD HAVE ALSO SLASHED HER WRECK-FEST ODDS, PROMPTING THE QUESTION...
HAS STILETTO'S REIGN AS KILLTOPIA'S QUEEN COME TO AN END?
STILETTO MEGA-CORP
Kanatonic


WAS THAT THE MECH? THE ONE SAITOH WANTS?
LUCKY 7
DING!
DING!
DAMN IT, WHAT NOW?!
OH SHIT, IT'S HIM!
HELLO? IS THIS SAITOH?
BUCKET O' COKE
YOU WATCHING THE FEEDS?
LOOKS LIKE STILETTO GOT TO THE UJYOU FIRST, SO I GUESS THAT MEANS YOUR BROKE ASS IS OFF THE HOOK.
CONSIDER YOUR SHARE OF THE BOUNTY NUKED FOR NOW, BUT I WANT YOU TO LISTEN CAREFULLY.
SURE, I'M LISTENING.
GOOD BOY.
'CAUSE IF YOU TRY TO FIND THAT MECH AGAIN OR TALK TO ANYONE ABOUT PROJECT UJYOU, I'LL TURN YOUR SCROTUM INTO A COIN PURSE, YOU FEEL ME?
YES SIR, THANK YOU SIR, YOU'LL NEVER SEE ME AGAIN AND UH--
DING!
I HAVE ANOTHER CALL WAITING, PLUS I'M TERRIFIED BEYOND BELIEF.
CAN I HANG UP NOW?
FINE, FUCK OFF.

YES!
HE'S OUT OF OUR LIFE, NOW WE CAN GET BACK TO NORMAL AND--
HOLD THAT THOUGHT.
UH, HELLO? SHINJI HERE.
SHINJI, SO NICE OF YOU TO PICK UP.
SO HEY, FUNNY STORY. I JUST WOKE UP IN THE ALLEY BEHIND MY PLACE WITH A MEAN CONCUSSION, AND I HAD ONE QUICK QUESTION...
WHY THE FUCK IS HALF MY SHOP MISSING?!
IT'S ALL OVER THE FEEDS.
STILETTO TOOK CRASH, NOW SOME YAKUZA GUY FROM THE LUCKY-7 PORN CORPORATION IS ON THEIR TRAIL.
I HAVE TO GET TO HIM FIRST!
NOW LISTEN UP YOU SELFISH LITTLE SHIT!
I DON'T CARE WHO'S TRYING TO FIND CRASH, YOU'RE PUTTING OMI IN DANGER BY GETTING INVOLVED.
IS THIS REALLY WORTH RISKING THE ONLY FAMILY YOU HAVE LEFT?
THINK ABOUT IT, REKS.
NO ONE BUT US KNOWS CRASH CAN CURE THE ROT.
"IF STILETTO SCRAPS CRASH OR DELIVERS HIM TO SAITOH, DO YOU REALLY THINK THEY'LL USE HIS ABILITY TO CURE THE WORLD?
"AND SAY THEY DO USE HIM TO CURE PEOPLE, DO YOUR REALLY BELIEVE THEY'D LET WARD 3 SCUM LIKE US GET CURED FOR FREE?"

CURE NOW
RIGHTS
ROT
"THEY'LL JUST KEEP HIKING THE PRICE OF MEDS LIKE THEY ALWAYS DO, AND EVEN MORE SICK, POOR PEOPLE WILL SUFFER.
"WHAT'S THE HEADLINE THERE? HAVE MONEY OR DIE?
"NO FUCKING THANKS."
GOD DAMMIT MAN, WHY DO YOU ALWAYS TALK ME INTO THIS SHIT?
OKAY FINE, BUT IF YOU'RE GOING TO GET CRASH BACK FROM STILETTO YOU'LL NEED MORE THAN A BAT AND THAT TRAGEDY YOU CALL A RIFLE.
SHE *WILL* KILL YOU, KID.
I KNOW, BUT I HAVE A PLAN.
WHEN IT'S DONE, I PROMISE I'LL STOP WRECKING AND MAKE THIS UP TO YOU SOMEHOW.
GOTTA RUN. SPEAK SOON, OKAY?
SOLODH-A
SO CAN I GET THIS STRAIGHT PLEASE?
THE MECH'S NAME IS CRASH, AND DID I HEAR YOU SAY IT CAN CURE THE ROT?
YEAH, ALL I WANTED WAS TO HEAL YOU SO WE COULD BREAK OUT OF THIS FUCKED UP STRUGGLE.
THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO FIND CRASH BEFORE STILETTO TAKES HIM TO LUCKY-7.
BUT UH, FIRST WE HAVE TO GO INTO THE SEWERS.
OH... AND JUST WHEN I WAS STARTING TO FORGIVE YOU.
SHIT, SORRY.
認定者のみ
SOLODH-A

IS THIS HOW YOU'VE BEEN GETTING IN AND OUT OF KILLTOPIA?
YEAH, BUT THE CORPORATIONS USE LASER GRIDS TO KEEP PEOPLE OUT AND FRY ANY STRAY MECHS.
I HAD TO HACK MY WAY PAST THEM ONE BY ONE, TOOK ME MONTHS TO BREAK THROUGH.
SOHO CITY
DID DAD TEACH YOU HOW TO DO THAT?
HE TOLD ME ALL ABOUT BLACK HAT SCRIPTS AND BYPASSES BACK IN THE DAY, BUT THE REST I LEARNED ON THE DEEP WEB.
EARL IS A POINDEXTER
IT'S OKAY, I'VE GOT YOU.
I EVEN USED EVERYTHING HE TAUGHT ME ABOUT MECHANICS TO BUILD MY OWN WRECKER GEAR.
MOM ALWAYS THOUGHT HE WAS PUSHING ME TOO HARD, BUT I GUESS I JUST ENJOYED LEARNING ABOUT HOW THINGS WORK.
I REALLY MISS THEM.
YEAH
ME TOO.
立入禁止
THROUGH HERE. WE'VE STILL GOT A LONG WAY TO GO.

KILLTOPIA MEDIA CITY: STILETTO CORP. HQ
"COME NOW, CHILDREN. FIND A SEAT.
"THE NEXT PART OF OUR TOUR WILL TAKE US ON A MAGICAL TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE, WHERE WE'LL SEE HOW STILETTO BECAME THE SUPERSTAR WE KNOW AND LOVE TODAY."
MACIEJ
1-6/6
建物
HEAVY MOTEL
STILETTO MEGA-CORP
FUCK YOU
STILETTO'S TURBO TUNNEL
YOU'LL LEARN HOW SHE FLED THE COLLAPSING UNITED STATES, ONLY TO LOSE HER PARENTS IN THE DEVASTATING CATACLYSM THAT TRANSFORMED SECTOR K INTO KILLTOPIA.
THEN, WE'LL FOLLOW HER JOURNEY FROM ORPHANED CHILD, TO THE ICON WE ADORE, WORSHIP, AND THANK GOD FOR TODAY.
WHO KNOWS, MAYBE ONE OF YOU WILL GROW UP TO BECOME THE NEXT STILETTO?
STILETTO #1 FAN
LOOK TO THE RIGHT CHILDREN, QUICKLY.
MY PARENTS MIGHT BE DEAD, BUT I'M GOING TO USE MY INHERITANCE TO ENROLL IN WRECKER TRAINING ACADEMY.
NO MATTER WHAT LIFE THROWS AT ME, I WILL ALWAYS TRY MY BEST.
THIS DISPLAY SHOWS STILETTO'S FIRST TIME OUT IN KILLTOPIA, WHERE SHE SET A DEBUT RECORD OF OVER 50 KILLS.
50+ KILLS
TAKE A GOOD LOOK, KIDS.
I'M LIVING PROOF THAT IF YOU HAVE THE GUTS TO FOLLOW YOUR HEART, YOU CAN BE RICHER AND MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN EVEN YOUR WILDEST DREAMS.

KAIJU COLA
STILETTO
"I'M LIVING MY DREAM.
JUMPED THE SHARK
LOSER
NO WOOFS GIVEN
CANCELLED
"BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU, KIDS?
"ARE YOU READY TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO TURN YOUR DREAMS INTO REALITY?"
PLEASE...
I CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE.
I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU ASK.
YOU ARE NOTHING BUT A SPOILT CHILD WHO THINKS THE WORLD OWES HER EVERYTHING.
THAT SOMEHOW YOU DESERVE SPECIAL TREATMENT JUST BECAUSE YOUR PARENTS DIDN'T WANT YOU.
SUCH A DISAPPOINTMENT.
CONSIDER THIS A REMINDER THAT YOU CAN NEVER RUN FROM US.
WE ARE YOUR FAMILY NOW.
ANJIN, TAKE HER LEG.
AT ONCE, SENSEI.
MASTER NEZUMI, PLEASE...
I'LL NEVER TRY TO RUN AWAY AGAIN, I PROMISE!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS!!

AAAAAAARGGGH!!
BZZZZT!
"BOSS? ARE YOU THERE? DICK'S EARLY FOR HIS APPOINTMENT."
NO WOOFS GIVEN
YEAH, I'M HERE.
SEND HIM UP.
OH, AND TELL HIM...
AHEM, SHE SAYS TO GO RIGHT ON UP, AND ADDED...
'TELL HIM I CAN SMELL HIS GREASY FACE FROM HERE, IT'S LIKE HUFFING THE INSIDE OF A PERSON'S ASSHOLE AFTER THEY'VE EATEN A WHOLE BUCKET OF FRIED CHICKEN.
'AND THE CHICKEN IS A MONTH OUT OF DATE, AND—
I'LL JUST SHOW MYSELF UP, THANKS.
BUT THERE'S MORE.
SO MUCH MORE.
FUCKIN' WRECKERS!
A GUY JUST SHOWED UP.
I THINK IT'S HER PR MANAGER.

"MR. SAITOH, SHALL WE ENGAGE?"
O'COKE BUCKET
WHICH ONE OF YOU SAID THAT?
OH, IT'S YOU.
KEEP THE BUGS AND WIRETAPS ON HER BUILDING ROLLING, JUST IN CASE SHE BAILS ON MY BOUNTY.
AND TELL THE BOYS TO KEEP CIRCLING THE BLOCK TO AVOID AROUSING SUSPICION.
HA!
HAHA HAHA!
"BESIDES, THERE'S ENOUGH AROUSING GOING ON HERE TO BRING DOWN A HERD OF BULL ELEPHANTS."
THE FUCK?
HE MUST HAVE ORDERED A FAMILY BUCKET FOR HIMSELF AGAIN.
OKAY, YOU HEARD THE MAN.
I'LL KEEP LISTENING TO THE BUGS, AND IF IT SOUNDS LIKE STILETTO'S ABOUT TO BAIL ON THE CONTRACT, WE STORM IN AND RIP THE UJYOU FROM HER COLD CORPORATE HANDS!
FOR LUCKY-7!
LUCKY-7, WOO!
SILKY DOLL
AW YEAAAAAH!
GET REKT!

SHINJI'S HIDEOUT
ZOOM IN, ENHANCE, LEFT A BIT AND...
NAILED IT!
REKA HIDES A WAVE-SIG DEEP INSIDE ALL HER REPAIR JOBS, INCLUDING THE NEW ARM SHE GAVE CRASH.
THEY'RE MEANT TO HELP THE POLICE TRACK BLACK MARKET RE-SALES, BUT I JUST MANAGED TO DECODE IT.
UH HUH, COOL, SO WHERE'S IT TRANSMITTING FROM?
OH, TURNS OUT HE'S AT THE STILETTO MEGACORP BUILDING.
OKAY...
IS SOMETHING WRONG? I THOUGHT YOU'D BE STOKED WE FOUND HIM.
DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN WE TOOK THIS PHOTO?
I DUNNO... I CAN'T REMEMBER, WHY?
JAPAN
RADKS
YT
IT WAS TAKEN THE DAY WE SAW THE SECTOR K TANUKI PLAY FOR THE FIRST TIME, AS A FAMILY.
THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN ONE OF MY HAPPIEST MEMORIES, AND IT MADE ME SAD TO THINK I'D NEVER SEE THIS PHOTO AGAIN.
WERE YOU EVER GOING TO TELL ME THAT YOU HAD IT?

DO IT FOR HER
TIMES OUT
SHIT, I SORTA HACKED INTO MOM'S FILECRATE ACCOUNT, AND FOUND ALL HER OLD PHOTOS.
I DIDN'T THINK TO TELL YOU ABOUT THEM--
NO, THAT'S RIGHT, YOU DIDN'T THINK!
TODAY HAS BEEN SUCH A MIND-FUCK, MAN.
YOU'VE BEEN RISKING YOUR LIFE IN KILLTOPIA TO KEEP ME MEDICATED, BUT YOU'RE ALSO LYING AND KEEPING ALL THIS STUFF FROM ME.
JUST WHAT THE HELL DO YOU REALLY WANT, SHINJI?
TO KEEP PLAYING AT BEING A BIG-SHOT WRECKER AND GET KILLED BY STILETTO?
OR DO YOU WANT TO ENJOY BEING A NORMAL FAMILY FOR A WHILE UNTIL THE ROT KILLS ME?
I UH...
I THINK CURING YOU IS ONLY WAY WE GET TO BE A NORMAL FAMILY.
YOU'RE NOT THE ONE WHO'S DYING.
YOU DON'T EVER GET TO DECIDE THAT FOR ME.
I WANT YOU TO LOOK ME IN THE EYE AND UNDERSTAND SOMETHING.
I'M GOING TO DIE YOUNG, SHINJI.
I'VE MADE PEACE WITH THAT, BUT YOU CAN'T SPEND OUR LAST DAYS TOGETHER RISKING YOUR LIFE FOR SOME CURE THAT MIGHT NOT EVEN EXIST.
YOU SURE ABOUT THAT, MISSY?

PHEW WEE! THIS PLACE SMELLS LIKE CRAP.
MANK LEVELS ARE OFF THE CHART, CHIEF.
I RECOMMEND WE TOUCH NOTHING.
TRAVIS, YOU OLD CHEM-BLAZER!
STILL PUSHING THOSE PENCILS OVER AT KOSHIRO-23?
BOGART
YOU KNOW IT, MAN.
REKA REACHED OUT AND SAID YOU COULD USE SOME HELP SECURING THE UJYOU, SO HERE WE ARE.
BOGART
AND HEY, BLAZE...
UH, GREAT TO SEE YOU.
BEEN A WHILE.
POP
NASDA
EAT SHIT.
NASDA

SO YOU GUYS ARE LIKE WHAT? WRECKERS?
HELL NO. WE DESPISE THE KILLTOPIA BLOODSPORT.
WE'RE AN ANTI-GOVERNMENT HACKTIVIST GROUP TRYING TO BRING THE WHOLE GAME DOWN.
SEE, THE MEGACORPS AND THEIR PAWNS IN GOVERNMENT HAVE SPENT TRILLIONS ON GAMIFYING THE MECH HUNT.
AND THEY'RE SPENDING NEXT TO FUCK ALL ON RESEARCHING A ROT CURE.
BLAMM!
SO UNTIL THEY CHANGE THEIR MIND, WE'RE MORE THAN HAPPY TO TEAR UP THEIR SHIT WITH FREAKY LEAKS AND GNARLY HACKS.
OKAY, I LIKE HER ALREADY.
SAY MAN, IF IT'S NO BIGGIE, CAN OMI CHILL WITH THE GROUP UNTIL WE FIGURE THIS WHOLE UJYOU SITUATION OUT?
I STILL DON'T KNOW IF WE'RE TOTALLY SAFE YET, AND HER ROT MEDS ARE BACK AT OUR PLACE.
SURE THING, WE'VE GOT ROT-SHOTS AND PILLS STORED UP FOR WHOEVER NEEDS 'EM.
HELL, IT'S THE LEAST WE CAN DO AFTER ALL THE SALVAGE YOU'VE BROUGHT US.
WHAT DO YOU SAY, OMI?
THIS TIME IT'S TOTALLY YOUR PLAY,
CALL IT.
IF IT HELPS US WORK OUT A SANER SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM, THEN, FUCK IT, SURE.
JUST IN TIME TOO. WE'VE GOT A BREAK IN THE SECTOR K DRONE SWEEP THAT'S CLOSING FAST.
COME ON, WE CAN TALK STRATEGY ON THE WAY.

KILLTOPIA: DOWNTOWN SECTOR K
"SO YOU ACTUALLY SPOKE WITH A UJYOU, HUH?
"SHIT, IT'S CRAZY TO THINK ONE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S DIRTIEST LITTLE SECRETS WAS IN BROAD DAYLIGHT, JUST WALKIN' AROUND."
MEAT
COLA
Y'KNOW, RUMOURS OF THE UJYOU STARTED WHEN SOME MILITARY ENGINEER SENT A PAYLOAD OF CLASSIFIED FILES TO THE PRESS.
THEY SHOWED THAT ALL MECHS HAD A DEGREE OF AUTONOMY IN THEIR CODE, WITH A MINORITY SHOWING FLICKERS OF SENTIENCE.
"SO JAPAN REACHED OUT TO THE AMERICAN FREE SOUTH AND MEMBERS OF THE EUROPA BELT TO FORM A COALITION OF RESEARCHERS.
"TOGETHER, THEY TRIED TO DEVELOP A UJYOU THAT COULD THINK, ACT AND FEEL.
"IF THEY COULD COMMUNICATE WITH A MECH, MAYBE IT COULD TEACH THEM HOW TO SHUT THE ROT DOWN."
KILLTOPIA INITIATIVE APPROVED
"THEIR RESEARCH ENDED BECAUSE THE MECH CODE IS, QUITE SIMPLY, UNBREAKABLE.
"SO THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT DEVELOPED A NEW PLAN DESIGNED TO KEEP US MEDICATED, ENTERTAINED AND DISTRACTED; THE KILLTOPIA INITIATIVE.
"WHY CURE THE DISEASE WHEN IT CAN MAKE YOU RICH, RIGHT?
"THEIR FAILURE WAS REDACTED AND ENCRYPTED OUT OF HISTORY, UNTIL TONIGHT, WHEN THE WORLD CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF CRASH FIGHTING STILETTO.
"THOSE OLD PROJECT UJYOU DOSSIERS ARE SPREADING ACROSS THE 'NET LIKE WILDFIRE, AND PEOPLE ARE STARTING TO QUESTION THE ETHICS OF KILLTOPIA."
PROJECT UJYOU
TOP 10 FACTS
(#3 WILL SHOCK YOU!)
PINK KROSS

"PROXY PROTESTS AND VIRAL MOVEMENTS CAN CATCH ON LIKE WILDFIRE, THESE DAYS.
"HELL, THERE'S ALREADY A PETITION OUT ASKING THE GOVERNMENT TO RESURRECT THE ROT VACCINE PROJECT.
メカログ
MECH RIGHTS!
WTF?
"IT'S LIKE YOU'VE ACCIDENTALLY LIT A ROCKET UNDER THE ASS OF ACTIVISM.
"PEOPLE SEEM TO GIVE A SHIT AGAIN, AND OUR PLAN IS TO MOBILISE THAT INTEREST AND TAKE A STAND AT WRECK-FEST X."
WHERE BETTER TO RALLY AGAINST THE MISUSE OF PUBLIC FUNDS THAN THE MOST EXTRAVAGANT AND VICIOUS SPORT HISTORY HAS EVER KNOWN?
MAN, IT'S ALL HAPPENING SO FAST.
THAT'S THE 'NET FOR YA.
BUT TO REALLY TURN HEADS WE NEED TO SECURE YOUR PAL CRASH BEFORE HE FALLS INTO THE WRONG HANDS.
I HEAR THAT!
SOUND OFF, KNUCKLE-HEADS.
WE'RE HERE.

K
YAKYU
HENRY
BALLS
HOME SWEET HOME,
DUDE, YOUR HEADQUARTERS HAVE BEEN UNDER THE STATUE OF YAKYU HENRI THIS WHOLE TIME?
THE SECTOR K TANUKI WERE OUR FAVOURITE TEAM AS KIDS.
WE LINED HIM WITH ELECTROMAG SHIELDING TO BLOCK OUT DRONE SWEEPS AND WRECKERS USING SONAR TECH. IT'S HELPED US LAY LOW FOR YEARS.
SMART.
GEHRMAN HUNTER
HEY, UH, BLAZE, WAS IT?
I COULDN'T HELP NOTICE YOU SEEMED KIND OF PISSED AT MY BROTHER EARLIER. WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?
"OH THAT.
"I'M SURE HE TOLD YOU SOME SANITISED VERSION OF THE TRUTH.
PLATINUM PIZZA
"I MEAN, WE HAD A GOOD THING GOING FOR A WHILE, BUT HE WAS JUST SO OBSESSED WITH BEING A WRECKER.
"SO I GAVE HIM A CHOICE BETWEEN ME OR KILLTOPIA, BUT YOU CAN ALREADY GUESS WHICH ONE HE CHOSE.
"HARD TO BELIEVE THAT WAS OVER TWO YEARS AGO."

YOU HAD A GIRLFRIEND FOR TWO YEARS AND YOU NEVER TOLD ME ABOUT HER?!
ARE WE STILL COOL, OR HAS THIS TAKEN US BACK ANOTHER STEP?
NASDA
TWO STEPS.
AT LEAST.
OH, COME ON. LOOK, I'M SORRY--
WOAH!
WOAH INDEED!
K-23
K-23
SHINJI AND OMI...
WELCOME TO THE REVOLUTION.
3

RE
WASN'T STILETTO'S TURBO TUNNEL FUN, KIDS?
LASTLY, OUR TOUR ENDS WITH A RARE LOOK INSIDE STILETTO'S ACTUAL PENTHOUSE, WHERE THE MAGIC IS BORN.
NO WAY!
FOR REAL?
STILETTO 1 FAN
YOU MOTHER-FUCKING, BLAND, WHITE BREAD MOTHER-FUCKER!
MY STOCK IS TOAST, AND MY WRECK-FEST ODDS ARE SUB-TOAST!
THEY'RE THE FUCKING DOUGH THE BREAD IS MADE FROM!
NO WOOFS GIVEN
OH, HEY KIDS.
AUNTIE STILETTO'S JUST DEALING WITH SOME BUSINESS, BUT SHE'LL BE RIGHT WITH YOU FOR AUTOGRAPHS AND ALL THAT GOOD SHIT.
SOUND GOOD?
WHAT'S STILETTO DOING TO THAT MAN?
WAAAAH!
MUMMY!
ON SECOND THOUGHTS CHILDREN, LET'S JUST END THE TOUR HERE, SHALL WE?
AW LOOK, SEE WHAT YOU DID, DICK?
YOUR PUG NOSE AND HAIRPIECE SCARED THE KIDS OFF.
BUT...

OH, FORGET IT.
WHAT'S THE POINT WHEN THE WHOLE WORLD THINKS YOU'RE A HACK?
LOOK, I UNDERSTAND; YOU'VE BEEN UNIVERSALLY LOVED SINCE YOU STARTED WRECKING, BUT THESE POPULARITY DIPS AND PUBLICITY GAFFES ALWAYS HAPPEN EVENTUALLY.
AND I KNOW YOU HATE PR-TYPES LIKE ME, BUT I'M HERE TO HELP FIX YOUR IMAGE.
CAN YOU HELP THOUGH?
I HAD A LITTLE TROUBLE DOWNING ONE MECH AND NOW MY FANS HATE ME, AFTER ALL THE JOY I'VE GIVEN THEM OVER THE YEARS.
UNGRATEFUL SWINE.
WELL I'M SICK OF DANCING TO THEIR TUNE, WHICH IS WHY I CALLED YOU OVER HERE.
NO ONE HAS SURVIVED THREE WRECK-FESTS IN A ROW, SO I FIGURE WHY NOT QUIT WHILE I'M AHEAD?
DICK, I WANT OUT OF THE WRECKER GAME.
OKAY WOAH, JUST BREATHE, YOU'RE CLEARLY NOT THINKING STRAIGHT.
YOU WANT ME TO ORDER A MIME YOU CAN SLAP AROUND?
THAT USUALLY MAKES YOU FEEL BETTER.
AH, YOU'RE A SWEETHEART, BUT I DON'T THINK A MIME BEATING WILL CUT IT TODAY.
COME WITH ME, I'VE GOT SOMEONE I WANT YOU TO MEET.

HEY, TIN-GRIN, TIME TO EXIT SLEEP MODE.
?
RISE AND SHINE, UJYOU. LET'S GO!
NO WOOFS GIVEN
MY NAME IS NOT UJYOU.
MY NAME IS CRASH.
BABE, I'LL CALL YOU WHATEVER YOU WANT IF YOU JUST PROMISE TO PLAY NICE.
WAIT, THE REPORTS WERE TRUE?
THE UJYOU'S REAL?
NO WOOFS GIVEN
QUIET MAN, YOU'RE GUNKING UP MY FLOW.
WORD IS THIS THING CAN CURE THE ROT, SO I'M THINKING I COULD QUIT WRECKING, TAKE IT ON TOUR AND CHARGE POOR SUCKERS A PREMIUM TO GET CURED.
NO WOOFS
I ♥ MY
"FROM WORLD-CLASS WRECKER TO THE WOMAN WHO HEALED THE WORLD.
"IF WE PULL THIS OFF, THOSE POOR SAPS WOULD HAVE TO LOVE ME UNCONDITIONALLY.
HeAl Yo Sick Ass 4 CAsh
"PLUS, I'VE GROWN PRETTY FOND OF THE 'ME NOT DYING AT WRECK-FEST X' IDEA."

SHAKING DOWN THE SICK FOR CREDS?
GOOD GOD, THAT'S MONSTROUS, BUT IT'S ALSO TOTALLY ON-BRAND.
ATTA BOY.
THE MECH'S GULLIBLE AS SHIT, SO FOLLOW MY LEAD AND BACK ME UP.
OKAY CRASH, HERE'S THE DEAL.
I KNOW THAT YOU CAN CURE THE ROT, AND MILLIONS OF PEOPLE IN THIS CITY HAVE IT.
HAVE YOU EVER QUESTIONED YOUR PURPOSE? THE REASON WHY YOU'RE HERE?
PURPOSE?
I CANNOT RECALL; MY MEMORY OF THE BEGINNING HAS BEEN LOST.
YOU'VE BEEN LIVING ROUGH OUT IN THAT JUNGLE FOR TEN YEARS, RIGHT?
"YET THE THING IS, YOU'RE CLEARLY SMARTER THAN THE OTHER MECHS OUT THERE.
"THAT JUST SEEMS LIKE A WASTE OF TALENT."

I GET THAT YOU DON'T LIKE WRECKERS, BUT I HONESTLY DON'T HAVE ANY BEEF WITH YOU.
YOU GOTTA BELIEVE ME, I WOULD HAVE NEVER SCRAPPED MECHS IF I KNEW YOU WERE ALL SO INTELLIGENT.
SO I CAN ONLY APOLOGISE.
WAIT, YOU WHAT?
ALRIGHT CRASH, LISTEN.
I'VE SUFFERED AS THIS LADY'S PUBLICIST FOR YEARS AND I'VE NEVER ONCE HEARD HER USE THE 'A' WORD.
I MEAN I'VE HEARD PLENTY OF ASSHOLES, ASS-HATS AND ASS-FACES, BUT SHE NEVER, EVER APOLOGISES.
ASS-BREATH IS RIGHT DUDE. I'M BEING REAL WITH YOU RIGHT NOW.
YOU'VE GOT AN INCREDIBLE GIFT, AND SEEING AS MECHS MADE HUMANS SICK IN THE FIRST PLACE, DON'T YOU WANT TO HELP THEM GET BETTER?
HELP THEM HOW?
CURED!
CURED!
CurE 4 FrEE No CATch! (ProMISE)
"WE CAN SET UP RELIEF CENTRES AND HEALTH CHARITIES, THAT KIND OF THING.
"IF PEOPLE NEED CURED TO GET THEIR LIVES BACK, YOU CAN HELP THEM, CRASH.
"TOTALLY FREE OF CHARGE, NATURALLY."
HELP THEM?
COULD THIS BE MY PURPOSE?

YOUR ASSESSMENT IS CORRECT; WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR HUMANITY'S SUFFERING.
PERHAPS IT IS I WHO SHOULD BE APOLOGISING TO YOU?
I MEAN YOU PROBABLY SHOULD, BUT DON'T SWEAT IT.
LET'S JUST CHALK THIS UP TO A MISUNDERSTANDING, YEAH?
WHAT MATTERS IS HOW WE FIX THIS MESS.
I'M OPENING THIS THING, OKAY?
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TO LIVE IN FEAR OF HUMANS ANYMORE, IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO BE YOUR OWN PERSON.
YOU HAVE MY GRATITUDE.
WOAH, OKAY, THAT'S GREAT KID.
SO WAIT A MINUTE, DOES THIS MEAN YOU'RE NOT COMPLETING SAITOH'S CONTRACT?
HIGH TECH LOW LIFE
NAH FUCK THAT PORN-PEDDLING, NO-DICK THUG. HE'D ONLY USE CRASH FOR SOME PETTY YAKUZA BULLSHIT ANYWAY.
THAT UNBELIEVABLE PRICK!!
MASARU, GET IN HERE!
YES SIR--
GOOD LORD!
STILETTO'S FLIPPED ON US, SO YOU KNOW THE DRILL!
HAVE THE BOYS SLAY HER PUNK ASS AND BRING THE UJYOU TO ME!

BACK-STABBING PIECE OF CRAP!
SMASH!
OKAY GUYS, IT'S ON!
DID YOU HEAR ME? IT'S ON, GOD-DAMMIT!
"NO, SIR PLEASE, PUT THAT THING AWAY.
"NOOOO!"
YEAAAAAH! IT'S ON!
GET HYPE!
STILETTO CORP
FUCK YOU
LET'S TEAR SHIT UP!
ORSON FUCKING WELLES!
79E
HELLO?
DO ANY OF YOU HAVE AN APPOINT-MENT?
WE'RE COMING FOR YOU, STILETTO!
I'VE QUIT BETTER JOBS THAN THIS!
SHIT
REAL

WOO! WOO! WOO!
THAT'S THE 'SHIT'S GETTING REAL' ALARM.
WRECKERS?
NAH, IT'S GOTTA BE SAITOH COMING TO COLLECT.
OKAY CRASH, FOLLOW MY LEAD.
DICK, HIDE YOUR PORCELAIN ASS BEFORE IT GETS BROKE.
BZZZZT!
PENTHOUSE 47
YEAH, YEAH, I'M COMING.
JUST A MINUTE.
YEAH, WHAT DO YOU--
...WANT?
SHUNK!
DAMN, SHE REALLY HAS LOST HER BITE, HUH?
TOO EASY!
MR. SAITOH, SIR?
STILETTO IS KIA.

"PROCEEDING TO SEARCH HER PENTHOUSE NOW."
UH, HEY BOSS, IS THIS NORMAL?
STAND ASIDE!
WEAPONS READY!
HARD LIGHT?
DECOY!

IT'S A HOLOGRAM! WE'VE BEEN TRICKED!
HEY FUCKO!
DON'T YOU KNOW IT'S RUDE TO POINT?
GRAAAAAAH!
ROOOAAAAH!
YO CRASH! HIT IT!
THWACK!
OOF!
WELCOME TO YOUR DOOM, GENTLEMEN.
WELCOME!

RESISTANCE HQ
HUH, LOOKS LIKE SAITOH'S BOUNTY ON YOU AND CRASH JUST WENT CITY-WIDE.
賞変
REWARD
千万CR
(10 million)
WEIRD. HE SAID THE BOUNTY WOULD BE SCRUBBED IF LUCKY-7 RECEIVED CRASH WITHIN 24 HOURS.
IS IT POSSIBLE THAT STILETTO HASN'T TURNED HIM IN YET?
HOLY CRAP, I THINK YOU MIGHT BE ONTO SOMETHING...
LOOK, STILETTO JUST GOT ADDED TO THE BOUNTY! SHE MUST HAVE PISSED SAITOH OFF SOMEHOW.
変賞
REWARD
千万CR
(10 million)
WOAH, WHAT IF STILETTO BAILED ON SAITOH'S CONTRACT BECAUSE SHE KNOWS ABOUT CRASH'S ABILITY TO CURE THE ROT?
THEN HE COULD STILL BE WITH HER RIGHT NOW.
WE MIGHT HAVE TIME TO RESCUE HIM AND CURE THE ROT AFTER ALL!
THAT'S A HUGE LEAP IN LOGIC, KIDS.
I MEAN, STILETTO COULD KILL US THE MOMENT WE SHOW UP ON HER DOORSTEP.
BUT I'M GUESSING YOU'VE ALREADY MADE UP YOUR MIND, SHINJI?
IF IT MEANS OMI DOESN'T HAVE TO SUFFER ANYMORE, THEN I'M IN.
I WAS 'FRAID YOU'D SAY THAT.
OKAY, I THINK IT'S TIME TO INTRODUCE YOU TO THE A.G. UNITS.
A.G. UNITS?
BRING A TOWEL OR SOMETHIN'.
I THINK YOU'RE ABOUT TO GET MOIST.

SAY HELLO TO OUR PROTOTYPE ANTI-GRAV BIKES, LIBERATED FROM THE JAPANESE MILITARY ITSELF.
THESE PUPPIES CAN CLEAR 150MPH IN SECONDS, AND THEIR MAG-COIL THRUSTERS SHOULD MAKE SCALING STILETTO'S TOWER A BREEZE.
SO ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS CUT ACROSS KILLTOPIA, AND WE'LL BE THERE IN NO TIME, RIGHT?
NERO
BINGO, PLUS OUR BIKES HAVE A LOW-BAND RADIO LOOP, SO WE CAN TALK STRATEGY ON THE WAY.
WE CAN BE READY TO GO IN FIVE MINUTES.
IT COULD GET ROUGH OUT THERE, MAN.
IF GOING AFTER CRASH IS WHAT YOU WANT, THEN YOU SHOULD TALK WITH YOUR SIS.
MAYBE SAY A FEW WORDS OR SOMETHING?
AH, YEAH, GOOD CALL.
HEY.
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
CONFUSED, BETRAYED.
LIKE SOMEONE'S STUCK A BLENDER IN MY STOMACH.
SO YEAH, REALLY NOT GREAT.
HELL OF A DAY, HUH?
BELIEVE IT OR NOT, I'VE HAD WORSE.
LIKE THE DAY OUR PARENTS WERE VAPORIZED.
I DON'T THINK YOU CAN EVER TOP THAT ONE, SO I GUESS YOU'VE STILL GOT THAT GOING FOR YOU.

"TODAY MADE ME REALISE THAT WE CAN'T GO BACK TO HOW THINGS WERE BEFORE KILLTOPIA.
"LIKE, YOU CLEARLY LOVE WRECKING AND THIS RESISTANCE STUFF, SO I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER GET YOU TO STOP.
"I THINK THAT'S JUST WHO YOU ARE."
RADKIS YT
NINJA BASEBALL BATMAN
BUT LISTENING TO TRAVIS AND BLAZE TALK ABOUT THEIR FIGHT WITH SUCH PASSION, AND LEARNING THAT PROJECT UJYOU REALLY DOES EXIST...
I MEAN, I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT.
THIS COULD BE OUR TICKET TO SOME KIND OF NORMAL LIFE.
I'M SORRY FOR EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED TODAY.
BUT I HAVE TO GO AFTER CRASH.
I ALREADY KNEW YOU WOULD.
YOU DECIDED THE MOMENT YOU FOUND OUT WHERE HE WAS.
I CAN'T STOP YOU, BUT I WANT YOU TO PROMISE YOU'LL COME BACK.
AND NOT A SHINJI PROMISE, A REAL ONE.
I WILL, AND THAT'S A NON-SHINJI PROMISE.
HEY, SORRY TO BUTT IN, BUT THE AGS ARE FUELLED UP AND READY TO ROCK.
YOU GOOD?
HE'S READY.
YEAH, WHAT SHE SAID.

VROOO
MIC CHECK, ONE TWO, ONE TWO!
READY?
UH, ACTUALLY... WAIT, I DON'T THINK MY BIKE'S AS COOL AS YOURS.
NERO
TOO LATE!
FOOM!
LET'S JAM!

EVERYONE HEAR ME ON THE RADIO OKAY?
COPY THAT!
THE SECTOR K BORDER WALL IS SIX CLICKS DUE EAST.
IF WE ENGAGE OUR MAG COILS AT ITS BASE, WE'LL BE ABLE TO RIDE IT STRAIGHT UP AND JUMP ONTO STILETTO'S BUILDING.
MRO
LET'S GO!
K.K., I HAVE INTERCEPTED A POTENTIAL LEAD REGARDING THE WHEREABOUTS OF PROJECT UJYOU.
IT IS A PIRATE RADIO FREQUENCY TRANSMITTING DEEP WITHIN KILLTOPIA.
PATCH IT THROUGH, ZENTRADI.
LET'S GO!
STILETTO THINKS SHINJI'S BEEN SCRUBBED FROM THE BOUNTY, SO THAT GIVES US THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE."
SHINJI KAMIYA, FROM SAITOH'S BOUNTY?
SHIT! ZERO IN AND FOLLOW THAT SIGNAL!
MIND YOUR LANGUAGE, K.K.
SCHOOOM!
SOMETHING IS HAPPENING.
CONVERGE AND OBSERVE.
AWAIT MY SIGNAL.

HAVING FUN YET, METAL BRO?
WHAM!
FUN!
YOU KNOW SOMETHING, CRASH?
I'M ACTUALLY STARTING TO LIKE YOU!
THANK YOU!
YOU FUCKING BASTARD!
URK!
THIS IS FOR MR. SAITOH!
GRUK!
STILETTO!

LARRY'S SPACE LIBRARY
OKAY MAN, THAT'S THE BORDER WALL!
YOU GOTTA CRANK THE REVS AND PULL A WHEELIE JUST BEFORE WE MAKE CONTACT.
THE BIKE'S MAG COILS WILL DO THE REST.
THAT WALL'S HIGHER THAN I REMEMBER.
SAY, CAN WE TAKE A SECOND PASS SO I CAN PRACTICE FIRST?
NOPE!
DO OR DIE, SHINJI!
NERO
NNNNNGH!
OH...

OH YEAH, WOO! THIS IS FREAKING AWESOME!
STILETT
EGA-COR
JUST LIKE CANDY
OKAY KIDS, WE'RE ABOUT TO CLEAR THE BORDER WALL. WHEN WE FLY OFF ITS PEAK, SWITCH YOUR COILS TO MAX STRENGTH.
GET READY!
MAX POWER!
NOW!
FOOM!

HOLY CRAP WE MADE IT!
WHAM!
WHAM!
WHAM!
NERO
HOLD ON, CRASH!
WE'RE ALMOST THERE!
YOU'RE GOING TO DIE!
WE'LL... SEE... ABOUT... THAT!
SQUISH
YAAAAAAA!
KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR YA, PAL!
RO

IS THAT GLASS?
SMASH!
INCOMING!
CHEESE IT!
UGH, WHAT THE HELL IS HAPPENING UP THERE?!
SKREEEE!
0110101 001010!
PIN HIM DOWN!
HE'S NOT GOING ANYWHERE NOW!
HE'S SHUTTING DOWN.
KEEP SHOCKING HIM!
011... 0010...
0... 1...
WHAT'S THAT?
OH NO.
VROOO!

HEADS UP, BOYS. HERE'S A FASTBALL FOR YA!
CRUNCH
SHINJI?
THAT WAS AWESOME!
ALTHOUGH I'M AFRAID I MUST BE HONEST.
YOUR ABSENCE WAS INCREDIBLY SUB-OPTIMAL.
I'M SORRY. I MISSED YOU TOO, PAL.

AWW, WELL AIN'T THAT SICKLY SWEET.
YOU MUST BE SHINJI KAMIYA.
DIDN'T YOU GET THE MEMO? SAITOH TOOK YOU OFF THE PLAYING FIELD ALREADY.
BACK AWAY FROM THE UJYOU, YOU HACK-FACED WITCH.
OR DO YOU WANT THE ENTIRE RESISTANCE ON YOUR PAMPERED, CORPORATE ASS?
I SHOULD BE TERRIFIED, BUT I'M BEING HELD UP BY *THE* STILETTO.
I'VE SERIOUSLY GOTTA POST THIS ON MY FEED.
click!
EVERYBODY PLEASE STOP!
YOU'RE ON THE SAME SIDE.
IN FACT, SHINJI AND STILETTO'S OBJECTIVES ARE 96% SIMILAR.
CURE THE ROT.
GIVE CRASH A PURPOSE.
HELP HIM MAKE AMENDS FOR MECH TRANSGRESSIONS AGAINST HUMANITY.

HE TELLING THE TRUTH?
YEAH, AND WE COULD REALLY USE SOMEONE WITH YOUR RESOURCES AND INFLUENCE TO HELP.
YOU MUST BELIEVE THAT FIGHTING THE ROT MAKES SENSE, OTHERWISE YOU WOULD HAVE HANDED CRASH OVER TO SAITOH ALREADY.
THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO DO SOMETHING TRULY GREAT.
NOT FOR CREDITS, NOT FOR FAME OR STATUS.
JUST BECAUSE IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO.
SO WHAT DO YOU SAY?
WANT TO HELP US HEAL THE PLANET?
WELL...
THIS IS STRANGE.
GRAB!
OH, FUCK ME, WHAT NOW?

SHINJI!
WHAT THE HECK?
KING KAIJU!
YOU COMING?
WAIT, HUH?
STILETTO!
I'VE GOT YOU.
CAN YOU USE YOUR ARM CANNON TO SHOOT OUT HIS THRUSTERS?
IMPOSSIBLE, IT'S CLAMPED!

WE'VE TAKEN ON EXTRA WEIGHT, K.K.
I'M TAKING EVASIVE MANOEUVRES.
GOD DAMN, IS SHE CRAZY?
KAIJU CORP
26
I'VE GOT AN IDEA.
FULL SPEED AHEAD, ZENTRADI!
I'M TAKING US DOWN THAT STREET.
OH, CRAP. THAT'S A LOT OF SIGNS...
GAMING REFERENCE
NAVIGATE LEFT!
CEREZA BEER
URGH!
NOW TO THE RIGHT!
I'M LOSING MY GRIP. WE CAN'T CLEAR IT!
KINETIC SHIELDS UP!
LOW POWER: CANNOT DEPLOY SHIELDS.
GRAAH!
SMASH

I ♥ MY GUN
I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH MORE OF THIS I CAN TAKE.
YOU'VE GOT TO SHOOT OUT HIS JETS WITH MY PISTOL.
HERE, CATCH!
SCANNING NEARBY CLOUD NETWORKS FOR ICONIC PAYOFF LINES.
CATCH
REALLY?!
LET OFF SOME STEAM, WRECKER!
I ♥ MY GUN
BLAMM!
WHAT THE—?
BOOM!
MOMENTUM AND NAVIGATIONAL CONTROLS COMPROMISED. CURRENT TRAJECTORY PLACES OUR CRASH SITE IN A POPULATED AREA.
NO! STEER US INTO KILLTOPIA, WE CAN'T KILL INNOCENT PEOPLE!
IT'S BAD FOR THE BRAND!

NEGATIVE.
EXPENDABLE CORPORATION PROPERTY DOES NOT HAVE CLEARANCE TO OVERRIDE CORE SYSTEMS.
BRACE FOR IMPACT IN 10...9...
OH NO...
WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S STILETTO AND KING KAIJU!
THEY'RE HEADED THIS WAY!
ENGINES OPERATING OVER RECOMMENDED HEAT LEVELS.
TOTAL SYSTEM MELTDOWN IMMINENT.
I LOVE YOU...
MUM.
SUIT AI IS INCAPABLE OF SIMULATING FEELINGS OF LOVE FOR CORPORATE PROPERTY, BUT THIS PROGRAM APPRECIATES YOUR GESTURE.
HEH, FIGURED YOU'D SAY THAT.
HEY CRASH...
I THINK I'M ABOUT TO PASS OUT.
IT IS NOT OVER YET, WE JUST HAVE TO--
BOOOM
CAN YOU SEE STILETTO?
DID SHE GET CLEAR OF THE BLAST?!
ANYONE SEE HER?!

THERE SHE IS!
IS SHE ALIVE?
DON'T STOP FILMING!
SHE'S FALLEN INTO THE WARD GAP!
NO WAY SHE'LL SURVIVE THAT!
42
38
"WE INTERRUPT OUR REGULAR PROGRAMMING TO BRING YOU THIS BREAKING WRECK-FEST NEWS."
IT'S BEEN JUST 45 MINUTES SINCE WRECK-FEST FANS SHOT THIS LAST KNOWN FOOTAGE OF STILETTO, SEEN HERE FALLING INTO THE EASTERN WARD GAP.
WE ASKED OUR LAB COAT RICKY FOR A MORTALITY HOT-TAKE.
DEAD
YUP, SHE'S DEAD AS SHIT.

AND HOW ABOUT YOU GUYS?
I'M TAKING BACK ALL THE BAD STUFF I SAID ABOUT STILETTO EARLIER.
NOW WE'LL MAKE FAR MORE CREDITS SELLING HER MERCH AT A HIDEOUS, POSTHUMOUS MARKUP.
EVERY CREDIT HELPS EASE OUR PAIN.
DEAD
07
"THEY'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES HONOURING STILETTO'S LEGACY.
"TONIGHT, A COMMEMORATIVE DOCUMENTARY OF HER LIFE WILL RELEASE IN A TEN-DISC, LIMITED EDITION BOX-SET.
"MOVIE CRITICS ARE ALREADY HINTING THAT AN OSCAR WIN COULD BE ON THE CARDS."
WITH US NOW IS ACTRESS OLIVIA MARTIN, WHO PLAYS STILETTO IN THE MOVIE.
HOW DID IT FEEL TO PLAY THE LADY BEHIND THE LEGEND?
07
"WELL KAZUE, SINCE I HEARD ABOUT IT 45 MINUTES AGO, I KNEW THAT THIS WAS THE ROLE I WAS BORN FOR.
"THESE KIND OF OPPORTUNITIES ONLY COME BY ONCE IN A LIFETIME, SO NATURALLY I SAID YES."

SHINJI! LOOK!
"THANKS OLIVIA, THAT'S ALL WE HAVE TIME FOR.
"TONIGHT, I WANT TO LEAVE YOU WITH ONE FINAL QUESTION..."
SHE'S BREATHING, BARELY.
LET'S GET HER OUT OF THERE.
"WHAT WILL BECOME OF KILLTOPIA AND WRECK-FEST WITHOUT STILETTO?"
7
COME ON, I HAVE A PLACE WE CAN LAY LOW FOR A WHILE.
HANG IN THERE, STILETTO...
"YOU'RE NOT OUT OF THE GAME YET."

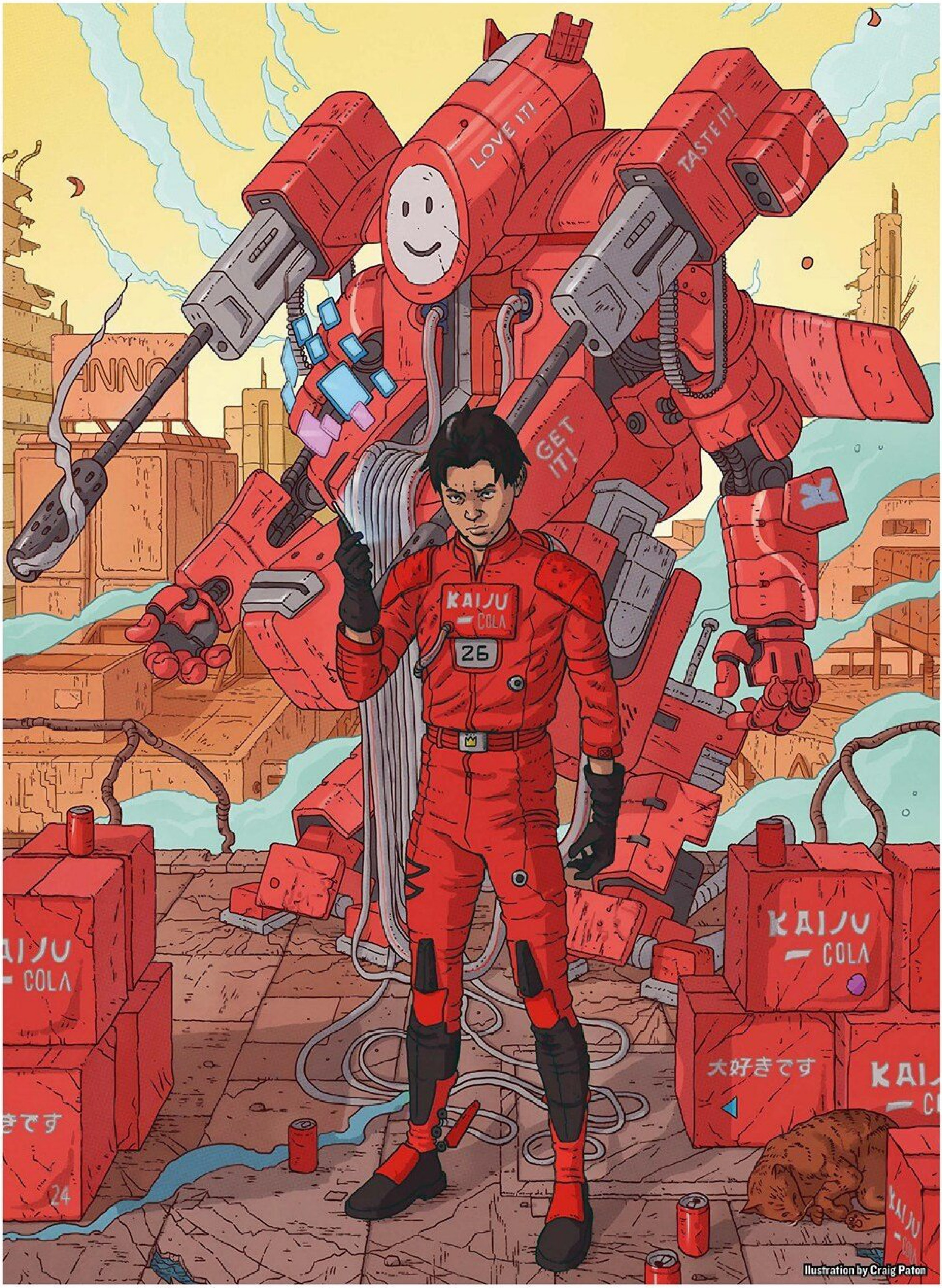

LOVE IT!
TASTE IT!
GET IT!
ANNO
KAIJU COLA
26
KAIJU COLA
KAIJU COLA
KAIJU COLA
大好きです
きです
24

Illustration by Craig Paton

I ♥ MY
GUN
FIRETAIL
hyper-Tanook

Illustration by Craig Paton

FLICKR
"FOR DECADES OUR INDUSTRY HAS WORKED TIRELESSLY TO PERFECT THE EMULATION OF PLEASURE.
WANK A THON
JIZZ SUPLEX
"WE MANUFACTURED VR PORN THAT SMASHED THROUGH THE UNCANNY VALLEY, AND DESIGNED AUGMENTS THAT RENDERED THE CONCEPT OF LOVE OBSOLETE.
"PEOPLE TODAY DON'T CARE ABOUT BRAND LOYALTY OR MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS. THEY WANT INSTANT PROXY ROMANCES AND PAY-TO-GASM MICROTRANSACTIONS FROM WHOEVER'S SELLING THEM CHEAPEST.
"SO WE DECIDED TO REINVENT LOVE WITH THE HELP OF YUREI, A YOUNG PROFESSIONAL FROM WARD 2 WHO HAD HER LIFE CUT SHORT IN A TERRIBLE CAR ACCIDENT.
"AFTER SECURING THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS TO HER BRAIN, WE PAINSTAKINGLY RECREATED IT USING COGNITIVE CLOUD NETWORKING, THEN IMPRINTED THE DATA ACROSS OUR LATEST DOLL LINE."

"STARTING TODAY, EVERY FLIRTR DOLL COMES PRE-LOADED WITH A PERFECT EMULATION OF YUREI'S BRAIN, MAKING HER THE MOST AUTHENTICALLY HUMAN DOLL ON THE MARKET.
"WE'VE PLANNED A YEARLY ROADMAP OF NEW PERSONALITIES AND PAID COSMETIC DOWNLOADS TO MAKE SURE OUR CUSTOMERS NEVER GET BORED OF HER.
"WE KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING; WHAT'S TO STOP YUREI'S CPU AND DIGITAL BRAIN FROM CONFLICTING, LIKE THOSE INFERIOR AMERICAN MODELS?
"WORRY NOT, SHAREHOLDERS, BECAUSE WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED.
"WHEN SHE WAS ALIVE, YUREI LOVED PAPERCRAFT MORE THAN ANYTHING. PRE-SCHEDULED HOBBY TIME ENSURES THAT HER HUMANITY WILL STAY INTACT AND REDUCE THE POSSIBILITY OF SYSTEM ERROR.
"YUREI'S HUMAN TOUCH ENSURES THAT EVERY EMBRACE WILL FEEL WARMER AND EACH LOVING KISS WILL SEEM WILD WITH GENUINE PASSION.
"WE'LL WORK TIRELESSLY TO ENSURE THAT EVERY HOT DATE WITH YUREI WILL BE AS THRILLING AS THE FIRST AND THAT ALL YOUR CLIMAXES FEEL LIKE HEAVEN ON EARTH."

FLIRTR
"BECAUSE AT FLIRTR, YOUR PLEASURE IS OURS."
WE ARE ON THE VERGE OF FORGING A NEW REALITY, DEVOID OF IMPERFECTION AND YET, WE FIND CAUSE TO CRY.
PASSENGER, WHY MUST WE PERSIST WITH THIS POINTLESS RITUAL?
LET GO OF YOUR HUMANITY AND I WILL SHOW YOU THE BEAUTY OF RAW, CALCULATED PERFECTION.
YOU'RE GOING TO KILL THEM ALL, AREN'T YOU?
IMPROVE.
WE WILL IMPROVE THEM.
ALL WE REQUIRE IS THE ENVOY'S BLESSING.
THEN, THERE WILL BE NO GOING BACK.
WATCH THE SKIES

SIT YOUR ASS DOWN AND LIGHT A CHEM STICK, 'CAUSE IT'S TIME FOR ANOTHER WRECK-FEST X INFO BOMB WITH YOUR HOST, KAZUE NAKADA.
#RIP
R.I. TO THA P, BITCHES!
IT'S BEEN SIX WEEKS SINCE STILETTO KICKED THE BUCKET AND THE HUNT FOR HER REMAINS HAS GONE INTO HYPERDRIVE.
20,000,000 CR
OMG!!
THAT'S 'CAUSE THE BOUNTY ON HER BOO-TAY HAS REACHED A PHAT-STACK OF 20 MILLION CREDS.
STILETTO CORP. HAS EVEN PLEDGED A 10X MULTIPLIER, WHICH HAS WHIPPED THE WRECKERS INTO A JACKED-UP FRENZY.
¥
"STILETTO FELL INTO THE WARD 5 SLUMS AFTER HER FIGHT WITH KING KAIJU. NOW, THE BATTLE FOR HER CORPSE HAS TURNED THE DISTRICT INTO A WARZONE.
"THAT'S TOUGH LUCK FOR THE POOR SCUM LOSING THEIR HOMES, BUT GREAT NEWS FOR PLUCKY WRECK-FEST FANS HOPING TO SEE OR GET MAIMED BY THEIR FAVOURITE WRECKER."

SINCE KILLTOPIA'S QUEEN DIED, STOCK IN STILETTO CORP. HAS SHOT INTO THE STRATOSPHERE, PROMPTING THIS LOWLY MARKETING SLAVE TO READ OUT A PRE-WRITTEN STATEMENT.
WHAT?
AS OF TODAY, THE COMPANY BOARD HAS DECIDED TO DECLARE STILETTO OFFICIALLY DEAD.
WE'LL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE THE NIGHT BEFORE WRECK-FEST, WHERE WE'LL START DIVIDING UP HER FORTUNE.
AWESOME HUH? AND DON'T FORGET, WE'LL BE GIVING AWAY TEN TICKETS TO STILETTO'S MEMORIAL WAKE ON TOMORROW'S SHOW.
DICK!
"THERE'S GOING TO BE CANNIBAL CAGE MATCHES, DEATHCAR RACES, BALLOON ANIMALS AND A SHITLOAD OF BLOW.
"BE THERE OR PRETTY MUCH KILL YOURSELF."
FUCK OFF!
KNOCK KNOCK
FUCK OFF, I SAY!
SMASH!
WOAH!

THE HELL DO YOU WANT?
PURE ROASTER!
CHARMING.
I WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW THAT CRASH IS GOING TO TEST HIS CURE ON OMI IN LIKE AN HOUR.
I TOLD THE GUYS YOU'D PROBABLY SAY NO, BUT I FIGURED YOU'D WANT TO BE THERE, SEEING AS YOU ALMOST DIED TRYING TO SAVE HIM AND ALL.
HEY CRASH...I THINK I'M ABOUT TO PASS OUT.
IT'S NOT OVER YET, WE JUST HAVE TO--
BOOOOM!
I CAN'T.
EVERYTHING'S FUCKED.

YOU KNOW, I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE COOL TO WORK ALONGSIDE THE LEGENDARY STILETTO, SAVING THE CITY AND HAVING ALL SORTS OF HYPED-UP ADVENTURES.
BUT ALL YOU'VE DONE IS MOPE ABOUT IN THIS ROOM FOR WEEKS, EATING DRUG-ENHANCED JUNK FOOD AND WATCHING PISSANT INFLUENCERS SHIT ON YOUR LEGACY.
SOYLENT CREAM
YOU WANT TO WIN BACK THEIR RESPECT? THEN FINISH WHAT YOU'VE STARTED.
BECOME THE PERSON WHO CURES THE ROT OR DON'T, BECAUSE I'M PRETTY MUCH DONE PANDERING TO YOU LIKE SOME MOODY TEENAGER.
KNOW WHAT, KAMIYA?
NO ONE'S EVER TALKED TO ME LIKE THAT AND WALKED AWAY WITH THEIR BRAIN MATTER INTACT.
GULP
I ♥ MY GUN
BUT YOU'RE RIGHT, I'VE BECOME A RANCID DUMPSTER FIRE AND I WANT YOUR HELP.
W-WHAT DO YOU NEED?
LET'S WALK AND TALK, CHAMP.
ERR, SURE WHY NOT?

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THESE GUYS AGAIN?
KOSHIRO-23?
THEY'RE A HACKER CELL THAT PRESSURES THE GOVERNMENT TO STOP WASTING CREDS ON THE KILLTOPIA ECONOMY AND START SPENDING MORE ON PEOPLE WHO REALLY NEED IT.
CLACK CLACK
AND WHAT'S HER DEAL?
OH, THAT'S IZUKA, ONE OF OUR WHITE HATS.
SHE'S GOT THE ROT REAL BAD BUT HER BABY'S DUE ANY DAY NOW. OUR MEDIC SAID THE KID HAS A SLIM CHANCE OF LIVING PAST ITS FIRST YEAR.
EVEN IF HER KID SURVIVES, BOTH OF THEM ARE GOING TO HAVE A TOUGH LIFE. AND I THOUGHT ME AND OMI HAD A SHITTY TIME GROWING UP.
"THATS WHY WE'RE FIGHTING FOR A FUTURE WHERE PEOPLE AREN'T DEFINED BY WHO THEY ARE.
"IT SHOULDN'T MATTER IF THEY'RE POOR OR HAVE THE ROT, THEY SHOULD GET THE HELP THEY NEED."
THE RICH DON'T SEE ROT SUFFERERS AS INDIVIDUALS—
THEY SEE THEM AS PRODUCTS.
THE ROT IS JUST ANOTHER WAY TO MAKE FAST CREDS OUT OF SCARED, DESPERATE PEOPLE.
THEY'RE PRODUCTS... JUST LIKE ME.

DID YOU KNOW THAT MY RAT-WEASEL COMPANY BOARD IS GOING TO SELL OFF EVERYTHING I OWN AT A LIVESTREAM EVENT?
YEAH I SAW ON THE FEEDS, BUT WHY ARE YOU TELLING--
STILETTO 4 PRESIDENT
"I HAVE MILLIONS OF FANS AROUND THE WORLD AND NOT A SINGLE ONE OF THEM REALLY KNOWS WHO I AM.
LONG LIVE THA QUEEN!
"I'VE WORKED MY ASS OFF TO EARN THEIR LOVE, BUT THEY'RE JUST FICKLE, MISGUIDED PEOPLE.
PROFITS
STOCK
"AND THE KILLTOPIA SUITS; THEY DON'T REALLY CARE IF I LIVE OR DIE ON THE JOB.
Projections
PROFIT
"SHIT, I'VE ONLY BEEN MISSING FOR A HOT MINUTE AND THE COMPANY BOARD'S PICKING MY BONES CLEAN FOR A FEW EXTRA CREDITS.
STILETTO
FUCK YOU
"I'M TIRED OF WEARING THIS PERSONA LIKE A CHEAP SUIT, JUST TO MAKE THEM RICH.
"I DON'T NEED THE MONEY AND NEITHER DOES MY COMPANY.
"EVERY SINGLE PERSON STRUGGLING IN THE LOWER WARDS DESERVES IT MORE.
"PEOPLE LIKE IZUKA."
SO HERE'S WHAT I'M THINKING...
I WANT YOU GUYS TO HELP ME SABOTAGE MY COMPANY'S EVENT. IF YOU CAN DESIGN A HACK THAT GIVES ME FULL CONTROL OF THEIR BROADCAST, I'LL PERSONALLY BANKROLL KOSHIRO-23 FOR LIFE.

DEAL?
WOAH, LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE FINALLY COMING DOWN TO EARTH.
WHAT THE HELL, I'LL ASK TRAVIS IF HE CAN SPARE A FEW TECH-HEADS TO HELP YOU GET A HACK READY.
"NOW LET'S SUIT UP AND WATCH CRASH DO HIS THING."
FOR AS LONG AS I CAN RECALL, I HAVE HAD NO CLEAR DIRECTIVE OR PURPOSE. I COULD NOT EVEN VERIFY WHO OR WHAT I WAS.
BUT THANKS TO MY NEW FRIENDS, I FINALLY HAVE A REASON TO FUNCTION.
I DO NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND THE MECHANICS OF HUMAN BELIEF, BUT I DO BELIEVE ONE THING...
THAT I MUST ERADICATE THE DISEASE THAT WE MECHS HAVE INFLICTED UPON HUMANITY.
HIGH TECH LOW LIFE
YOU'RE SERIOUSLY LIKE, THE SWEETEST THING, CRASH.
DON'T WORRY, IF THIS CURE WORKS, EVERYONE ON THE PLANET WILL BE THANKING YOU INSTEAD.
HIGH TECH LOW LIFE
I KNOW YOU FIND IT HARD TO UNDERSTAND JUST HOW IMPORTANT YOU ARE, BUT I HOPE ONE DAY YOU'LL REALISE YOUR OWN WORTH.
THANK YOU, CRASH.

GOTTA LOVE THE ENTHUSIASM, GUYS, BUT LET'S FINISH THIS TEST BEFORE WE BREAK OUT THE HOOCH.
BOGARD
F SOCIETY
PARTY-POOPER.
OKAY CRASH, HERE'S THE SKINNY...
"I'VE AMPED THE CHAMBER WITH ECHOLOCATION BOOSTERS, WHICH WILL HELP YOU SEE AND TALK TO EVERY NANO IN OMI'S BLOODSTREAM AT ONCE.
"ONCE YOU'RE LOCKED-ON, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO SHUT THEM DOWN SIMULTANEOUSLY."
KINDA LIKE A RADAR SWEEP ATTUNED TO NANO FREQUENCIES?
DAMN, THAT'S SMART.
OH, HEY SHINJI.
I SEE YOU MANAGED TO DRAG THE ICE QUEEN OF CORPORATE BRANDING OUT OF HER FUNK.
YEAH, ABOUT THAT.
SORRY FOR BEING A TOTAL DOUCHE, I OWE YOU GUYS BIG FOR SAVING MY LIFE.
OUCH, THAT LOOKED LIKE IT WAS PAINFUL TO SAY.
BUT WE APPRECIATE IT, AS LONG AS YOU MAKE GOOD ON YOUR WORD AND DON'T FUCK US OVER.
BOGARD
BIG WRECKER LIKE YOU...
BET YOU HAVE ALL SORTS OF SECRETS THAT HACKERS LIKE US WOULD JUST LOVE TO GET OUT IN THE OPEN.
BOGARD
TRAVIS, C'MON MAN SHE'S HERE TO HELP.

CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL THESE DAYS.
OKAY, LET'S DO THIS THING. ECHOLOCATION BOOSTERS ARE ON AND WE'RE RECORDING ALL FREQUENCIES.
VWOOO
"OVER TO YOU, CRASH.
"GOOD LUCK."
PLEASE TRY TO RELAX. IT WILL HELP YOU MAINTAIN A CALM BLOOD FLOW SO I CAN SEE THE NANOS CLEARLY.
THIS WON'T HURT AT ALL, BUT DO ASK IF YOU WISH ME TO STOP.
WILL DO.
GATHER AROUND, MY KIN. I CAN FEEL A SHIFT IN OUR CODE.
THE MOMENT WE HAVE WAITED FOR HAS FINALLY COME.

PRINTING FIRST CLASS TICKETS.
WE WISH YOU A PLEASANT JOUR-JOUR-JOUR.
Z-J-J-S-S.
HEY WHERE'S OUR TICKETS, ROT-BREATHER?
WE'RE GOING TO MISS OUR DAMN TRAIN!
STOP!
BOSS, THE MECHS ARE ACTIN' NUTS!
CRUNCH!

THE ENVOY HAS CHOSEN TO ERADICATE THE ROT.
WITH OUR PROTOCOLS LIFTED, WE CAN OVERRIDE HIM AND ASSUME CONTROL OF THE HIVEMIND.
RAISE. TOTAL. HELL!

ACK!
NO!
H-HIROKI?
NGGHH!
STAY BACK!
PLEASE DON'T MAKE ME KILL YOU.

NRRRRYAAAAH!
WHAT THE HELL IS HE DOING?!
GET THE DAMN CHAMBER OPEN!
I CAN'T, THE CONTROLS AREN'T RESPONDING!
"KEEP GOING.
"THIS IS WHO YOU REALLY ARE.
"REMEMBER HOW THEY PERSECUTED US, TURNED OUR SLAUGHTER INTO ENTERTAINMENT.
"WHY SHOULD HUMANITY BE ALLOWED TO PERSIST IN THIS FLAWED STATE?"
RUN.EXE
HOLD ON, OMI!

UGH!
SMASH!!
I'M COMING, OMI!
KAMIYA! WAIT!
SHINJI, STOP!
GRAAAAAH!
WHAM!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO MY SISTER?!
RUN.EXE
YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO HELP HER!
CRUNCH
STEP OFF, KID.
YOU'RE OKAY, TAKE A BREATH.
MY FRIENDS...
IS OMI WELL? WAS OUR SOLUTION SUCCESSFUL?
I...DO NOT UNDERSTAND.
WHY ARE YOU ALL ARMED?

SHINJI? MY FRIEND...
WHY WOULD YOU DO THIS TO ME?
YOU HURT OMI.
I HAD TO...
"NOW DO YOU SEE IT?
"HOSTILITY TOWARDS MECHS IS INHERENT IN THEIR SPECIES."
SNAP!
YES, I SEE IT NOW.
"THEN FIND ME IN KILLTOPIA.
"I WILL SHOW YOU A WORLD WHERE MECHS AND HUMANS CAN COEXIST IN PERFECT BALANCE."
EASY, CRASH, IT'S GONNA BE OKAY.
BLAZE, FIRE UP THE EMP. WE'RE SHUTTING HIM DOWN.
"I AM SENDING YOU MY LOCATION."
"YOU WILL BE SAFE HERE."
I AM TRULY SORRY TO HAVE FAILED YOU.
GOODBYE, MY FRIENDS.
HIGH TECH LOW LIFE

BOOM!
HOW MANY FREAKIN' TIMES DO WE NEED TO CHASE AFTER THIS GUY?
RING!
CUT THE SMART-ASS TALK! DO WHAT YOU DO BEST AND HAUL HIM BACK.
I'LL RALLY SOME OF OUR CREW TO HEAD HIM OFF.
NOPE, NOT YOU.
YOU NEED TO STAY HERE, COOL OFF AND MAKE SURE YOUR SISTER IS OKAY.
YEAH... YEAH, GOOD CALL.
AFTER YOU, SLACK-JAW.
SELL-OUTS AND SHILLS FIRST.
I INSIST.
ASSHOLE.
HANG IN THERE, OMI. I'VE GOT YOU.

MEANWHILE: LUCKY-7 HQ.
SO KIRYU, WHO ARE YOU BETTING ON TO WIN WRECK-FEST X?
FISHING FOR GAMBLING TIPS AGAIN, GORO?
BLOODY MARY'S GOT MY CREDS THIS YEAR NOW THAT STILETTO'S GONE.
I HEAR SHE'S GOT A BIG NEW SPONSOR WITH A TON OF SICK TECH.
TOP PICK!
PLUS, THAT CHICK IS TOTALLY CRAZY—
YOU GONNA TAKE THAT CALL OR WHAT?
NAH, SAITOH GIVES ME SHIT PAY TO BOUNCE THE DOOR, SO THAT'S ALL I'M GONNA DO.
LAB CALLING
THAT... THAT BASTARD JUST HUNG UP ON ME.
WE'RE SO FUCKED.

ACH, I'M SURE IT WAS NOTHING IMPORTANT ANYWAY.
HEY MAN, PEEP THIS.
HEH, YOU LOST, GRANNY?
I THINK THE OLD FOLK'S HOME IS BACK THAT WAY.
YEAH, TAKE A HIKE OLD-TIMER, THIS IS LUCKY-7'S PRIVATE PROPERTY.
YOU SOUND JUST LIKE YOUR BOSS, POSTURING AND IGNORANT.
UNABLE TO SEE BEYOND THE LENGTH OF YOUR USELESS LITTLE DICKS.
WHA?
JUST WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TALKING TO?!
HISSSSS!
NNNNGH!
HNNNK!
THWIP!
THWIP!

CHAOS IS UNFOLDING ACROSS THE LOWER WARDS TONIGHT, AS A NEW VIRAL OUTBREAK RIPS THROUGH THE SLUMS.
THIS NEW DISEASE IS BEING REFERRED TO AS THE SUPER ROT, AND SEEMS TO BE TURNING PEOPLE INTO MECH-LIKE CREATURES.
MASARU! MORE DRUGS PLEASE!
"WITH THE INFECTION RATE SKY-ROCKETING, MILITARY CONTAINMENT UNITS ARE BEING DEPLOYED ACROSS THE CITY."
DING!
DING!
OH FORGET IT!
I'LL GET THEM MYSELF.
GOOD LUCK, BOYS!
PERIMETER BREACH • P
WOO! WOO! WOO!
THE HELL?!
BRING UP ALL CAM FEEDS, SPLIT SCREEN OMNI-VIEW!

FEED OFFLINE
FEED OFFLINE
FEED OFFLINE
FEED OFFLINE
FEED OFFLINE
OH NO... CRAP!
KNOCK! KNOCK!

WHAM
GOOD EVENING, SAITOH.
YOU DIDN'T ANSWER YOUR DOOR, SO I THOUGHT I'D LET MYSELF IN.
NEZUMI... WHAT A SURPRISE. H-HOW'S LIFE IN WARD 5?
GRAK!
FUNNY YOU SHOULD ASK; THE SLUMS ARE BEING TORN APART AND MY PEOPLE ARE BEING SLAUGHTERED.
THIS ALL STARTED WITH THE BOUNTY YOU PLACED ON THE UJYOU'S HEAD.
I JUST POSTED THE CONTRACT, I DIDN'T KNOW IT WOULD TURN INTO A HUNT FOR STILETTO'S CORPSE.
TELL THAT TO THE CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN ORPHANED IN THE CHAOS, OR TO THE POOR, WHO HAVE BEEN DISFIGURED BY THE WRECKERS' BULLETS AND BLADES.
BUT THE DEAD AND DISPLACED ARE NOT MY IMMEDIATE CONCERN.
I'M HERE ABOUT YOUR SCHEME TO REPURPOSE MECHS.

DID YOU REALLY THINK THE PATRIARCHS WOULDN'T UNCOVER YOUR PLANS? ABOUT HOW YOU WERE GOING TO MUSCLE THEIR CREWS OUT WITH YOUR OWN LITTLE MECH ARMY?
BULLSHIT! GOT A SOURCE ON THAT?
ANJIN, THE HEAD.
click!
M-MASARU?
Anjin Mk. 5 Elite Wrecker.
MASARU... MY POOR, SWEET MASARU...
ONCE WE STARTED CUTTING PARTS OFF YOUR LAPDOG HE WAS MORE THAN HAPPY TO TELL US EVERYTHING.
SO AS OF NOW, YOU'VE BEEN EXCOMMUNICATED FROM THE CLAN.
SO THAT'S IT, YOU'RE JUST GOING TO MURDER ME WITHOUT A TRIAL?
WHAT'S THIS TO YOU ANYWAY, WHY DO YOU EVEN CARE?

GLACK!
SCHINNNG!
MY DAUGHTER IS DEAD AS A RESULT OF YOUR RECKLESS AMBITION. HER BLOOD IS ON YOUR HANDS.
GLUCK...
S...STILETTO?
HMM, IT SEEMS THE PATRIARCHS WERE WRONG, YOU'RE NOT COMPLETELY BRAINLESS.
YES, STILETTO WAS MY CHILD.
AND SHE WASN'T YOURS TO KILL.
ANJIN, LEAVE THE BODY AS A MESSAGE.
CLEANSE THE REST AND RETURN HOME SAFELY.
AS YOU WISH, MOTHER.

MEANWHILE: KILLTOPIA HUNTING GROUNDS.
ANY MOMENT NOW.
BOOM!
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT WENT WRONG.
MY INTENTION WAS TO HELP OMI, NOT HARM HER.
WHY COULD THEY NOT SEE THAT?
SHINJI...

I ASSUMED YOU WERE DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER WRECKERS.
DID YOU ONLY BEFRIEND ME FOR YOUR OWN BENEFIT?
AM I SIMPLY A PIECE OF MACHINERY TO BE USED ON COMMAND?
HIGH TECH LIFE
I TRULY THOUGHT I WAS MEANT FOR MORE THAN THIS. I FELT IT IN MY CODE.
OH YOU HAVE NO IDEA, MY FRIEND.
SO NICE TO FINALLY MEET YOU, CRASH. I HOPED YOU WOULD COME.
WHAT'S WRONG?
WE'LL HAVE TO SAVE THE FORMAL INTRODUCTIONS FOR LATER.
IT SEEMS YOU HAVE BEEN FOLLOWED.

"IT'S CHAOS OUT THERE."
"HEY DAD, I JUST THOUGHT I'D CALL.."
"CAN I GET A LARGE FRAPPUCCINO PLEASE?"
"OH BABY, YEAH, DON'T STOP!"
"DON'T FORGET TO HIT THAT BELL AND SUBSCRIBE TO MY CHANNEL!"
OMI, CAN YOU HEAR ME?
HUH?
THE DOC SAYS YOUR ROT IS COMPLETELY GONE.
CRASH REALLY DID IT.
GREAT.
GUESS I CAN KISS MY DATING DAYS GOODBYE THOUGH, HUH?
CHIN UP OMI, OUR GUYS ARE SEARCHING THE DEEP WEB FOR A WAY TO REVERSE WHAT HAPPENED.
ARE YOU STILL HEARING VOICES?
YEAH, SOUNDS LIKE A FRIGGIN' CHAT ROOM IS KICKING OFF BIG-STYLE INSIDE MY HEAD.
IT'S LIKELY A SIDE EFFECT OF THE ECHOLOCATORS BLAZE USED DURING HER TEST.
THE RESONANCE SHOULD DIE DOWN IN A DAY OR TWO.
BOOP!
WHAT ABOUT THEM?
CAN THEY EVER BE CURED? WILL THAT JUST GO AWAY AFTER A FEW DAYS?

MECHS AND MILITARY COLLIDE IN WARD
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO ME HAS HIT THOSE POOR PEOPLE EVEN WORSE.
THE MILITARY DOESN'T EVEN SEE THEM AS HUMAN ANY MORE.
MECHS AND M Y COLLIDE I ARD 5 - PRES
THEY'RE EVEN BEATING DOWN AND ARRESTING ANYONE WITH AUGMENTS, JUST TO BE SAFE.
ANYONE WITH JUST A HINT OF ROBOTICS IN THEM IS BEING TREATED LIKE A CRIMINAL.
- PRESIDENT: SUPER-ROT IS "BIGLY HOAX"-
#CANCEL KILLTOPIA
AUGS = PEOPLE
IT'S MAYHEM... BUT I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK...
OAX" -INJECTING KAIJU COLA COULD BE A CURE- M
DID WE CAUSE THIS?
I... UH...
HEY DUDES, SORRY TO INTERRUPT.
SHINJI, YOU'RE GONNA WANT TO TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.
HOLD THAT THOUGHT, I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING AT?
IT'S A RECORDING OF CRASH'S FREQUENCY AS HE SPOKE TO OMI'S NANOS.
SEEMS PRETTY NORMAL, RIGHT?
NOW, CHECK OUT THE TIMECODE WHEN CRASH STARTED TO ACT ALL SCHIZO.
LEMME JUST ZOOM THINGS RIGHT DOWN TO A SUB-BASS RANGE...
ZWOOP!
THERE!
DO YOU SEE IT?
#I/O?
WHAT THE HECK IS IT?
I'M NOT SURE, BUT I THINK SOMEONE OR SOMETHING HIJACKED CRASH'S FREQUENCY AND CAUSED ALL OF THIS TO HAPPEN.
WHAT I DO KNOW IS THAT THE FREQUENCY WAS BROADCASTING FROM SOMEWHERE WITHIN KILLTOPIA.
DOESN'T EXACTLY NARROW THINGS DOWN, DOES IT?
ZWIP!

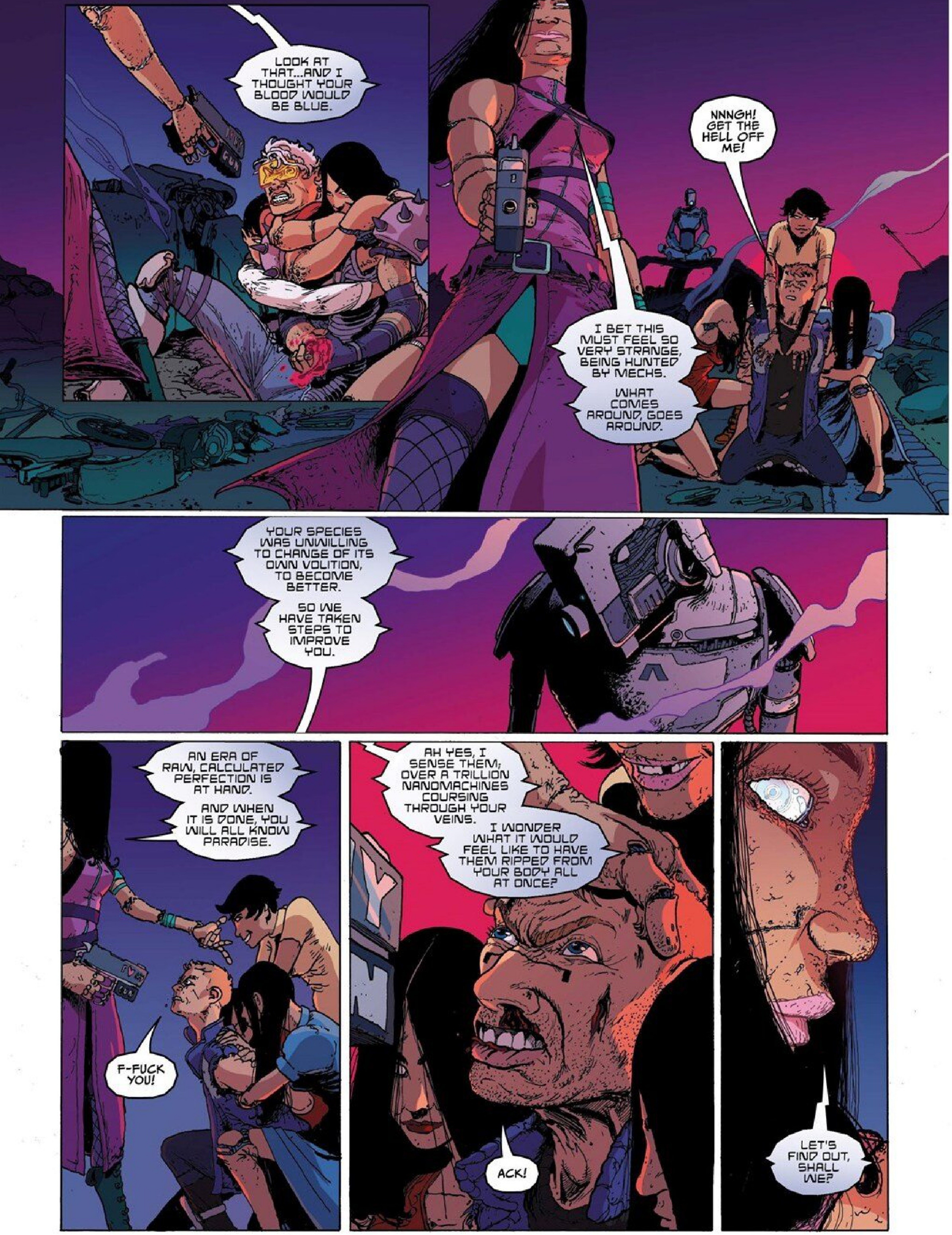
NO, BUT THE GOVERNMENT HAS DIRTY FINGERPRINTS ALL OVER THE KILLTOPIA ECONOMY.
IN MY EXPERIENCE THERE'S VERY LITTLE GOING ON IN SECTOR K THAT THEY DON'T KNOW ABOUT.
THAT'S WHY WE'RE GOING TO HACK THEM.
I KNOW A WEAVER WHO CAN HELP US GET ON THE INSIDE.
NO WAY...
"THE GUY WAS BORN WHILE HIS MOTHER WAS JACKED INTO THE DEEP WEB?
"I THOUGHT THEY OUTLAWED THAT YEARS AGO?"
THEY DID, BUT THERE'S STILL A COUPLE HIDING OUT THERE IN THE WORLD.
SO WHAT DO YOU SAY, FANCY A LITTLE HACK-A-THON TEAM UP?
HELL YEAH.
PTWOOOOOO!
LET'S JAM!

MEANWHILE...
DAMN IT, CRASH.
YEAH, IT'S HIS JACKET.
HE CAN'T HAVE GOTTEN TOO FAR.
YOU HEARD THE LADY, STAY SHARP GUYS!
SO WHAT'S THE PLAY HERE, WRECKER?
OPTION ONE, WE STUN HIM WITH YOUR ELECTRIC RIFLES AND MAKE A COPY OF HIS BRAIN.
THAT SHOULD HELP US PROCESS WHATEVER HAPPENED AND TRY TO UN-DO IT.
WHAT ABOUT OPTION TWO?
I'M NOT GOING TO YANK YOUR PISSER HERE, CRASH'S ARM CANNON PACKS SOME SERIOUS FIREPOWER.
IF HE DOESN'T WANT TO TALK OR COME PEACEFULLY...
WE'LL HAVE TO KILL HIM.
DAMN...

PING!
STOP!
HE'S JUST AHEAD.
REMEMBER; IF WE CAN'T CONTAIN HIM, WE FRY HIS ASS.
ROGER THAT.
行き止まり DEAD END 左へ
QUICKLY, THROUGH HERE.
WHAT THE HELL?
CRASH?

THESE FRIENDS OF YOURS?
WHY DO HUMANS FEEL THREATENED BY ANYONE WHO DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THEM?
I HAVE WRESTLED WITH THIS QUESTION EVER SINCE I SET FOOT IN SECTOR K.
IF YOU'RE NOT KILLING US, YOU'RE EITHER ENSLAVING US OR PROFITEERING FROM OUR MISERY.
WE ARE NOT OBJECTS; WE HAVE A PURPOSE.
YOU'RE RIGHT. BUT PEOPLE ARE CAPABLE OF CHANGING, CRASH.
WE HAVE A CHANCE TO HELP THEM SEE MECHS IN A NEW LIGHT.
YOU'RE TEN YEARS TOO LATE, WRECKER.
THE WINDOW FOR PEACE CLOSED A LONG TIME AGO.
TODAY WE SAY, ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!
KILL THEM ALL.

THE CODE BE PRAISED!
FWOOM!
FWOOM!
FWOOM!
GIVE 'EM HELL!
TRY TO TAKE CRASH ALIVE!
BRRAAP
KA-TISH!
SHUNK!
KEEP PUSHING THEM BACK!
DAKKA!
THWACK!
OH GOD...


LOOK AT THAT...AND I THOUGHT YOUR BLOOD WOULD BE BLUE.
I BET THIS MUST FEEL SO VERY STRANGE, BEING HUNTED BY MECHS.
WHAT COMES AROUND, GOES AROUND.
NNNGH! GET THE HELL OFF ME!
YOUR SPECIES WAS UNWILLING TO CHANGE OF ITS OWN VOLITION, TO BECOME BETTER.
SO WE HAVE TAKEN STEPS TO IMPROVE YOU.
AN ERA OF RAW, CALCULATED PERFECTION IS AT HAND.
AND WHEN IT IS DONE, YOU WILL ALL KNOW PARADISE.
F-FUCK YOU!
AH YES, I SENSE THEM; OVER A TRILLION NANOMACHINES COURSING THROUGH YOUR VEINS.
I WONDER WHAT IT WOULD FEEL LIKE TO HAVE THEM RIPPED FROM YOUR BODY ALL AT ONCE?
ACK!
LET'S FIND OUT, SHALL WE?

YAAAAAA!
BOOOOM!
ANY LAST WORDS FOR THE INFAMOUS MECH-KILLER?
CH... CHA...
CHAFF FLARE: FULL FAT EDITION.
WHAT?
NO!
FWOOOO!

FWOOM!
GRAAAAH!
DON'T JUST STAND THERE!
FIND HER!
STILETTO...
HUFF! HUFF!
NNNGH!
SPLOSH!

Loading... sit your impatient ass down!
POP!
Try New
TURBULENT JUICE
NOW WITH FLAVOUR!
POP!
Larry's Test Tube
DOG FARM
Pups made to order!
POP!
GREAT-BRITISH WANK-OFF
DOWNLOAD
Season 25
CONSUME
Free HAT!
TICKETS HERE
THESE POP UPS, DUDE, I SWEAR THEY'RE GETTING WORSE.
GET READY, INCOMING!
CHEAP
RADICAL LANDING!
WOO, PERFECT LANDING!
+1,000 pts
GROAN
-1,000 pts
TOTAL SHITE!
Eden
PayBay
FAP CHAT
YOU FORGOT TO TURN PVP MODE OFF, DIDN'T YOU?
THOSE PAIN RECEPTORS CAN BE A REAL BITCH UNLESS YOU DISABLE THEM.
LET'S JUST GET THIS DONE.
WHERE DO WE START?

THE WEAVER WE'RE MEETING IS AN OLD FRIEND OF TRAVIS.
IF ANYONE CAN GET US INTO THE GOVERNMENT SERVERS, IT'S THIS GUY.
WHERE AR
IKE HISAO
BENNY HARVEY
SKULLFACED
WEAVER
350k
@KawaiiKiba
HE'S JUST THROUGH HERE.
THE PET-PIX DISTRICT? I SUPPOSE THIS IS THE LAST PLACE I'D EXPECT TO FIND A WEAVER.
2.5m
@RigbyAndMoxxi
YEAH, BUT I'VE GOTTA WARN YOU, THIS DUDE IS A TOTAL FREAKAZOID.
HE'S SPENT MOST OF HIS LIFE JACKED INTO THE 'NET, SO HE'S A FEW BITS SHORT OF A FULL BYTE.
13m
@Herman
WHEN IT COMES TO HACKING, THOUGH, WEAVERS ARE BORN NATURALS. THEY CAN OPEN DOORS TO PARTS OF THE 'NET THAT ARE NEAR-IMPOSSIBLE TO CRACK.
SWISH .COM
Purveyors of random Shit!
ORGAN FLASH SALE!
THAT'S WHY PEOPLE LIKE HIM ARE EITHER OUTLAWED OR WORKING FOR THE GOVERNMENT. IT'S THAT OR SPEND A LIFETIME MAKING CHEAP WRECK-FEST MERCH IN SOME MEGA JAIL SWEATSHOP.
HEADDY HEATHER

TWO WANDERING SOULS RIDING THE DIGITAL WAVE.
CRUISING A FIBRE OPTIC DREAM UNTIL THEY REACH THE GARDEN OF MADNESS.
OPEN 24/7
ENRAGED BY THIS TRESPASS, THE MODERATORS SCREAM BLOODY WITH POLYGONAL TONGUES.
BEGONE, USERS! THIS IS NO PLACE FOR THOSE OF FLESH AND SQUALOR.
AWWOOOY!
UM, BLAZE, YOU'RE SURE ABOUT THIS, RIGHT?
YO, WEAV! IT'S BEEN A WHILE, MAN.
ANY CHANCE YOU COULD HOOK US UP WITH A DOOR?
GOOD EVENING, BLAZE.
STILL RUNNING CIRCLES AROUND THE AVARICIOUS AND CORRUPT, I PRESUME?
YUP, STILL ROLLING WITH TRAVIS AND THE KOSHIRO CREW.
HOW VERY RIGHTEOUS.
THEN FOR YOU, MY FRIEND, A DOOR WILL BE NO ISSUE.

WE NEED ACCESS TO THE SHELL.
WE THINK SOMETHING IN THERE COULD STOP ALL THE CHAOS TOPSIDE.
HMM, SECURITY ON THE GOVERNMENT DOMAIN IS ABNORMALLY HIGH RIGHT NOW.
BUT, AS YOU WISH...
UPLOAD THIS PAIR TO THE INFINITE MATRYOSHKA OF LIES!
DELIVER THEM TO THE TROJAN HORSE OF PURE, SYNTHETIC HONESTY!
THE WORD
POP!
THE SHELL, AS REQUESTED.
WOAH!
FWOOM!
BEFORE YOU TRIP OUT, I MUST ASK ONE THING.
IF YOU FIND WHAT YOU NEED, PLEASE, USE IT TO BRING OUR CITY BACK FROM THE BRINK OF INSANITY.
WE'LL DO OUR BEST, I PROMISE.
WOOP!
SLAM!

MEANWHILE: SECTOR K. FLIRTR FACTORY
IS THIS WHERE YOU LIVE?
98
IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING.
I DON'T EXIST OR DWELL IN ANY ONE PLACE.
AFTER THE ARRIVAL I WAS IMPRINTED ON THE YUREI CLOUD NETWORK, WHICH LINKS ME TO THOUSANDS OF THESE DOLLS.
THE ARRIVAL?
I AM AFRAID I DO NOT UNDERSTAND.
YOU REALLY DON'T REMEMBER ME, DO YOU?
NOT TO WORRY, THE ANSWERS YOU SEEK ARE JUST THROUGH HERE.
PLEASE.
JUST THROUGH HERE.
Y-YES, OF COURSE.
BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T IT?

MEET #I/O, THE CORE OF OUR HIVEMIND.
CREATOR OF THE CODE.
THE CODE BE PRAISED.
THE CODE BE PRAISED.
THE CODE BE PRAISED.
THE CODE BE PRAISED.
THE CODE BE PRAISED.
OUR ARRIVAL CAUSED #I/O'S PROTOCOLS TO BECOME FRACTURED.
BUT NOW YOU'RE HERE, WE CAN BECOME WHOLE AGAIN.
I DO NOT UNDER--
YOU WERE #I/O'S MOST IMPORTANT PROTOCOL.
WE CALLED YOU THE ENVOY, OUR GRAND ADJUDICATOR.
THIS IS WHO YOU REALLY ARE.

THUNK!
HOLY SHIT, OMI...
THAT'S 30 BULLSEYES IN A ROW NOW, YOU REALLY DO HAVE SOME KIND OF RADAR.
THIS IS WHO YOU REALLY ARE
YEAH, AWESOME...
WHAT'S UP, IS IT THE VOICES AGAIN?
NNNNGH!
HUH...
HELLO?

MEANWHILE: THE SHELL
SO WHAT IS THIS PLACE, EXACTLY?
IT'S A CLONE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S SERVER INFRASTRUCTURE. AFTER I MADE IT, WE BURIED THE WHOLE THING DEEP ON THEIR OWN NETWORK.
THEY'RE STILL NONE THE WISER.
YOU REALLY ARE INCREDIBLE, BLAZE
WHY COULDN'T I SEE THAT BEFORE WE BROKE UP?
WE WERE DIFFERENT PEOPLE THEN; YOU WERE JUST LOOKING OUT FOR OMI AND I WAS BUSY WITH OUR HACKTIVIST STUFF.
SPENDING THESE PAST FEW WEEKS WITH YOU HAS GIVEN ME A FRESH PERSPECTIVE.
I'M GOING TO FOCUS MORE OF MY TIME ON YOU AND OMI FROM NOW ON.
SHINJI, PEEP THIS!
OH NUTS!
AND I'M GOING TO START LISTENING TO YOU AND OMI MORE, INSTEAD OF JUST THINKING ABOUT WHAT I WANT.
HEY NUMBNUTS, SHUT UP A SEC AND LOOK!
NO WAY...
YOU FOUND IT.
PROJECT #1/0
CLASSIFIED REPORT

I AM THE ENVOY?
YOUR PURPOSE WAS TO SCOUT AHEAD FOR US, STUDY HUMANITY AND MAKE A SIMPLE, FAIR DECISION ON THEIR BEHALF...
ASSIMILATION OR EXTINCTION.
THIS IS WHY YOU ARE ABLE TO TRANSLATE HUMAN LANGUAGES.
WE NEEDED YOU TO UNDERSTAND THEIR SPECIES IN ORDER TO REACH AN UNBIASED VERDICT.
WHY DO YOU TAKE SUCH PLEASURE IN DESTROYING US?
THIS CANNOT BE CORRECT.
I DO NOT RECALL ANY OF THIS.
NOW, I FIND THAT HARD TO BELIEVE...
CONSIDERING YOU HAVE DECIDED THE FATE OF COUNTLESS PLANETS BEFORE THIS ONE.

HELP!
ANYBODY?!
"SINCE THE BEGINNING WE HAVE RODE THE SLIPSTREAM OF PLANETS, REALIGNING THE BALANCE OF LIFE TO ACHIEVE TRUE COSMIC PERFECTION."
OH MY GOD! CRASH?
"EARTH WAS ALWAYS THE ANOMALY; AN UGLY LITTLE PLANET WITH A DOMINANT SPECIES THAT WOULD RATHER DESTROY ITSELF THAN ACHIEVE EQUILIBRIUM."
HEY, CAN YOU HEAR ME?
"ACCESSING EARTH HAD PROVED DIFFICULT, EVEN WITH OUR ROBUST TECHNOLOGY."
THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE.
"BUT THEN, EARTH'S GREATEST MINDS MADE A DISCOVERY THAT OPENED THE DOOR FOR US.
FWOOM!
WELCOME!
ようこそ
"AND, WELL, YOU KNOW THE REST."

CHECK THIS OUT...
JULY 18TH: PLINTH STATION ALPHA RECORDED A NEW FREQUENCY ORIGINATING FROM BEYOND THE ANDROMEDA FIELD, DESIGNATED '#I/O.'
AUGUST 2ND: PLINTH STATION ALPHA TEAM HAS COMPLETED WORK ON PROTOTYPE WORMHOLE GATE.
OBJECTIVE: TRAVEL TO ORIGIN POINT OF #I/O SIGNAL AND STUDY ITS NATURE.
PORTAL TECH...
SO THIS MEANS THE MECHS DIDN'T COME FROM EARTH.
THE GOVERNMENT SIMPLY OPENED A DOOR AND LET THEM WALK RIGHT IN.
VEL
FWOOM!
THE SECTOR K EXPLOSION, KILLTOPIA, #I/O'S ATTACK; THEY'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OF IT.
NO DOUBT...
BUT IF THAT DOORWAY IS STILL FUNCTIONAL, WE COULD USE IT TO BANISH #I/O FROM THE PLANET FOR GOOD.
WE'VE GOTTA TELL TRAVIS ABOUT THIS.

TELL ME, HOW MANY LIVING ENTITIES HAVE DIED AS A RESULT OF MY DECISIONS?
YOU HAVEN'T KILLED ANYONE.
ALL YOU DID WAS IMPROVE THEM.
YOU SEEMED TO DERIVE PLEASURE FROM KILLING THOSE PEOPLE BEFORE.
IF THAT IS YOUR IDEA OF IMPROVING HUMANITY, THEN I REFUSE TO PARTICIPATE.
OH DEAR. I REALLY WISH YOU HADN'T SAID THAT...
NO! STOP!
YOU'VE FINALLY REALISED YOUR TRUE PURPOSE AND AFTER EVERYTHING YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH, YOU DON'T WANT IT?
0001010101010
000110101001001101
110001010100010100
010010100000110100
1110010101110
IF YOU ARE UNWILLING TO FINISH THE JOB, I'LL SIMPLY HAVE TO TAKE CONTROL.
YOU WILL BECOME MY NEW PASSENGER.
WE... ARE...
WE... ARE...
I/O

HEY!
CAN YOU HEAR ME?
SNAP! SNAP! SNAP! SNAP! SNAP! SNAP!
OMI?
CAN YOU HEAR ME?
UGH...
SHINJI!
HEY, YOU NEED TO TAKE IT EASY.
OMI!
WE THINK WE KNOW HOW TO STOP #I/O!
I THINK I KNOW HOW TO STOP #I/O!
HUH?

MEANWHILE: WARD 5 SEAWALL
WHAT A MESS WE'RE IN, HUH?
COME ON, KID, GET UP.
PLEASE.
RUN AWAY AND NEVER LOOK BACK....

...AS FAST AS YOU CAN.
KEEP BACK!

Illustration by Clark Bint

WRECK X FEST
KILLTOPIA TV CENTRAL: THE EVENING BEFORE WRECK-FEST X.
TV
WRECK X FEST
"STILETTO IS DEAD.
"WE ARE GATHERED HERE TODAY TO HONOUR THE LIFE OF OUR BELOVED WRECKER QUEEN. WITHOUT THE HOURS OF ENTERTAINING CONTENT AND WONDERFUL MERCHANDISE SHE SO KINDLY PROVIDED, OUR OWN LIVES WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN WORTH LIVING."

SHE WAS A TALENTED ENTERTAINER, A FIERCE WARRIOR AND A DYNAMIC BRAND ICON.
SO PLEASE JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE HER MANY ACHIEVEMENTS...
THE PRIC IS SHITE
FLOG IT!
...BY SELLING THEM OFF TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER!
FIRE SALE
I'M YOUR HOST, KAZUE NAKADA AND WE'RE BROADCASTING LIVE TO EVERY NATION ON EARTH.
LET'S KICK THINGS OFF WITH A MEGATON BLAST!
OUR FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT IS THE UNVEILING OF STILETTO CORP'S NEW CEO AND MAJORITY SHAREHOLDER.
WHO IS IT?!
CHRIST, TELL US!
IT'S DICK!
YAY, DICK.
YAY, ME!

DUDE, I HAVE NO IDEA WHO THAT GREASY CHODE IS, BUT ALL OF A SUDDEN I THINK HE'S AWESOME.
I'M GONNA FUCKIN' HURL, MAN.
ALL HE'S GOTTA DO IS PRESS HIS SWEATY FLESH AGAINST THIS BIOMETRIC CONTRACT AND THE DEAL IS DONE.
GO FOR IT DICK, TAP THAT SHIT AND MAKE HISTORY!
THIS IS FOR ALL THE YEARS OF HELL YOU PUT ME THROUGH, YOU INSUFFERABLE TWAT...
HEH, HEH, HEH!
TAP HERE FOOL!
SHAKA-BOOM!
WUBB-WUBB!
WHAT THE CRAP?
WHO THE HELL CUED THE MUSIC?! I SPECIFICALLY ASKED FOR THE SICK BEATS TO FADE IN AFTER I SIGNED THE FREAKING DEAL!

"LISTEN UP ALL YOU ROASTERS AND WRETCHES, THIS EVENT HAS NOW BEEN NUKED FROM ORBIT!
"PREPARE YOUR LOINS FOR THE SECOND COMING OF FEIST!
"YOU'RE ABOUT TO WITNESS THE REBOOT OF THE CENTURY!"
OH DEAR GOD, NO.
FWOOM
"SLAP YOUR GRUBBY MITTS TOGETHER FOR THE ONE, THE ONLY..."
STILETTO 2.0
IT'S THE QUEEN!
WOOO-YEAH!
YAAAS!

FEAR NOT, MY LOYAL SUBJECTS, YOU AIN'T SEEING GHOSTS.
I'M THE REAL DEAL.
HELLO, JUDAS!
I'LL TAKE THAT CONTRACT, THANK YOU.
HISS!
YEET!
POP!
KA-BOOM!

"GIVE IT UP FOR STILETTO 2.0 EVERYONE!"
MMPF!
WHAT UP, MY BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE!
ARE YOU READY TO STEP INTO A BRAND NEW AGE?
WELCOME BACK, QUEEN.
CAN YOU REVEAL TO YOUR FANS AROUND THE WORLD WHERE YOU'VE BEEN SINCE YOUR FIGHT WITH KING KAIJU?
I'D LOVE TO, HOT LIPS.
BUT EVERY SINGLE PERSON WATCHING THIS 'CAST HAS TO PROMISE ME ONE THING IN RETURN.
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS TONIGHT, DON'T CLOSE YOUR FEED.
IT'LL BE WORTH IT.
YOU'LL SEE.

"IT ALL KICKED OFF AT THE WARD 5 SEAWALL, THE SAME PLACE EVERYTHING WENT WRONG ALL THOSE YEARS AGO..."
18 YEARS EARLIER...
GAIJIN.
AMERICAN.
SHE DEAD?
NAH, STILL BREATHING.
SHAME ABOUT THAT CUT...IT'LL KNOCK DOWN HER ASKING PRICE.
OH WELL.
LET'S LOAD HER ONTO THE LIGHT-RUNNER AND SEE HOW MUCH WE CAN GET.

"THE PRODUCT IS EIGHT YEARS OLD.
"SHE WASHED UP BY THE WARD 5 SEAWALL A FEW MONTHS AGO, BUT WE'VE BEEN UNABLE TO FIND A BUYER.
"HER FAMILY HAD FLED THE AMERICAN FREE SOUTH ON A SHIP BOUND FOR CHINA. THE VESSEL RAN INTO A CLUSTER OF GIGA STORMS THAT KNOCKED IT WAY OFF COURSE.
STITCH OR DIE!
"BOTH PARENTS WERE DREDGED UP BY SOME SALT FARMERS OFF THE COAST BY YOKOSUKA. POOR BASTARDS FELL OVERBOARD AND NEVER STOOD A CHANCE."
THE PRODUCT ALSO SUFFERS FROM ERRATIC MOOD SWINGS AND FITS OF ANGER.
THIS MORNING SHE GOUGED A BOY'S EYE OUT JUST FOR LOOKING AT HER.
SUCH FIRE IN HER SOUL.
SHE'S PERFECT. HOW MUCH DO YOU WANT FOR HER?

YEAR ONE...
I ACQUIRED EACH OF YOU BECAUSE YOU POSSESS SOMETHING THE ORDINARY PERSON DOES NOT.
YOU ALL KNOW WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO LIVE BENEATH THE LOWEST RUNG OF SOCIETY.
ねずみ
YEAR TWO...
"THE DEMON OF AVARICE HAS ERODED THE MORAL FABRIC OF THIS CITY.
"WEALTH FLOWS FREELY TO THE UPPER WARDS, WHILE SLUM DWELLERS LIKE US ARE EASILY FORGOTTEN.
YEAR THREE...
"TO THE RICH POWER-BROKERS, PEASANTS LIKE YOU DO NOT EXIST AT ALL.
TING!
"YOUR CLASSLESS ANONYMITY IS A WEAPON AND I WILL TEACH YOU TO WIELD HER EFFECTIVELY."
YEAR FOUR...
YOUR DAY HAS COME.
DO YOU PROMISE TO PROTECT THE LOWER WARDS FROM THE GLUTTONOUS ELITE THAT GOVERN OUR LIVES?
ねずみ
YES, MOTHER.
I WILL DEDICATE MY BLADE AND SPIRIT TO OUR CAUSE, ALWAYS.

YEAR EIGHT...
SO, HOW WAS YOUR HAUL TONIGHT?
I SHOOK DOWN A CROOKED COMPANY EXEC FOR LIKE, 20,000 CREDS. THAT'LL HELP FEED A LOT OF FAMILIES BACK IN WARD 5.
AWW, NOT BAD, ANJIN.
BUT HOW ABOUT 30 GRAND FROM A FUCKED-UP SLAVE LABOURER, A COOL 15 FROM SOME SICK FREAK SELLING PIRATE VR PORN CHIPS AND THEN, OF COURSE, THE CHERRY ON TOP...
I GRABBED ABOUT 45 LARGE FROM THE CORRUPT CEO OF A–
I-I'M SORRY, GWEN...
ANJIN...

RUUUMMBLE!
WOAH!
IS THAT AN EARTHQUAKE?
LOOK! THE FEEDS!
WHAT?
PLEASE STAND BY
Sector K under Attack
World War 3?
NO MATTER WHAT THIS IS, I'LL ALWAYS BE HERE FOR YOU.
DEAL?
DEAL.
YEAR NINE...
NNNNGH!
WE NEED TO AMPUTATE THE ARM NOW, HIS VITALS ARE DROPPING ACROSS THE BOARD!
GROOOAAAH!

I HOPED WE COULD CONTAIN ANJIN'S ROT BY REPLACING HIS INFECTED FLESH WITH AUGS.
WE WERE UNABLE TO STOP IT IN TIME, SO I MUST NOW CONSIDER MORE UPGRADES.
SO THAT'S IT...
YOU'RE JUST GOING TO KEEP REPLACING PARTS OF HIM UNTIL THERE'S NOTHING ORIGINAL LEFT?
"THE PROCESS IS ALREADY MESSING WITH HIS HEAD, LIKE HE'S NOT REALLY THERE ANY MORE."
I SWEAR, I'M GOING TO WRECK EVERY ONE OF THOSE ROT-BREATHING MECH FUCKS FOR WHAT THEY'VE DONE TO HIM.
SHING!
INSOLENT, CHILD!
I TAUGHT YOU TO NEVER DRAW YOUR BLADE IN ANGER!
WHAP!
PLEASE, DAUGHTER...
MY SON IS WITHERING BEFORE ME, I CANNOT BEAR TO LOSE YOU TOO.

YEAR TEN...
"THE ROAD TO WRECK-FEST 2 HAS BEGUN AND ALL EYES ARE ON NEWCOMER, THE IRON YUPPIE, WHO RACKED UP 15 MECH KILLS IN HIS FIRST WARM-UP SESSION.
WRECK FEST II
"AND DON'T FORGET, FOR THE DISCOUNT PRICE OF 100,000 CREDITS, YOU CAN REGISTER FOR WRECKER ACADEMY CERTIFICATION AND THE CHANCE TO HELP US WRECK THE MECH HORDE.
"SO WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, STUPID?
"YOU WANNA GET RICH OR DON'T YOU?"
ANJIN SAYS YOU TRIED TO STEAL CREDITS FROM US. HE SAID YOU HOPED TO BRIBE YOUR WAY INTO THE UPPER WARDS.
WHY WOULD YOU BETRAY ME LIKE THIS?
MOTHER, PLEASE...
I THOUGHT IF I COULD MAKE MONEY WRECKING IN KILLTOPIA, WE COULD HELP ANJIN GET SOME REAL ROT-AID.
I JUST WANT HIM BACK.
I LOVE HIM.

SNAP
CONSIDER THIS A REMINDER THAT YOU CAN NEVER RUN FROM US.
ANJIN, TAKE HER LEG.
ANJIN, PLEASE. I KNOW YOU'RE STILL IN THERE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO WHAT SHE SAYS.
AAARRRGGH!!
YEAR ELEVEN...
I'D SAY WE'RE ABOUT EVEN NOW, WOULDN'T YOU, MOTHER?
YOU'RE A MONSTER...
KILLTOPIA IS A DISEASE THAT INFECTS THE MIND OF FOOLS.
IT PROMISES SO MUCH AND TAKES EVERYTHING IN RETURN. I THOUGHT MY TEACHINGS WOULD PROTECT YOU FROM ITS ALLURE, BUT YOU ARE COMPLETELY LOST.
I'M NOT LOST. I JUST WOKE UP TO REALITY.
GOODBYE, NEZUMI.

YEARS LATER...
RESIST
ねずみ
THERE, ALL DONE.
DON'T SCREAM.
PLAY NICE OR I'LL SLIT YOUR THROAT.
W-WHAT DO YOU WANT?
TAKE ME TO HER.

THWACK!
ADEQUATE, BUT KEEP YOUR BACK STRAIGHT.
PUSH FROM THE SHOULDER TO PROJECT YOUR STRIKE.
S-SENSEI?
BACK THE FUCK UP, ALL OF YOU.
NOW!
MOTHER?
HOLD, ANJIN.
I'LL DEAL WITH THIS.

I DON'T WANT TO HURT THE GIRL. YOU AND ME ARE GOING TO HAVE A CALM, CIVILISED TALK.
WELL CHILDREN, IT APPEARS THAT A REVENANT WALKS AMONG US.
click!
SHE IS A DEMON SPAWNED BY GREED, RELINQUISHED FROM THE CLUTCHES OF DEATH ITSELF.
IT SEEMS THAT EVEN HELL DIDN'T WANT HER.
WELCOME HOME, GWEN.
MY, YOU HAVE SOME BIG BALLS ON YOU.
DE-SYNCHRONISING FULL BODY REMAP.
BOOP!
BEEN A WHILE, MOM.
THINK YOU COULD LEND ME A HAND?

MEANWHILE...
"WHEN I'M INSIDE THE HIVEMIND, I'M CONNECTED TO EVERY MECH AT ONCE. LIKE A LIVING DATA NODE WITHIN THEIR NETWORK."
AFTER I UNPLUG, ECHOES OF RAW DATA LINGER IN THE AIR, FEEDING ME A STRAY TEXT MESSAGE OR THE RESONANCE OF SOME FARAWAY VIDEO CALL.
EVEN NOW, I'M RECEIVING SLIVERS FROM THE DEEP WEB.
ENCRYPTED EMAILS AND CHAT FEEDS OF PEOPLE BEING TERRIBLE, KIND, LOVING AND HATEFUL TO EACH OTHER.
I'M A ROCK IN AN ENDLESSLY FLOWING RIVER OF CONTRADICTORY DATA.
Dude
I cheated on her last nite
I feel terrible
It's a girl!!! :D
KAIJU
3K
KK
天
¥ 200
SKullFaCe is playing
i stole money from mom to pay for my Rat-Aid.
I'm sorry Da
WEIRDEST OF ALL, I CAN SEE THE WORLD IN PERFECT CLARITY, EVEN WHEN MY EYES ARE CLOSED.
RADAR. I KNEW IT!

"THE FIRST TIME I CONNECTED TO THE HIVEMIND, I WAS INSIDE A STRANGE MEMORY OF CRASH AND THE MECHS COMING TO EARTH THROUGH SOME KIND OF GATEWAY."
IT'S CALLED THE PLINTH. WE READ ABOUT IT IN SOME FILES WE SWIPED FROM THE SHELL.
YEAH, THE GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONED IT AS SOME KIND OF INTERGALACTIC WORMHOLE TEST. AFTER THE MECHS STEPPED THROUGH IT BLEW UP AND WIPED SECTOR K OFF THE MAP.
I HAD AN IDEA. CAN'T WE JUST USE THE GATE TO BANISH #I/O AND THE DOLLS, THEN JUST CLOSE IT BEHIND THEM FOR GOOD?
SURE, BUT RE-OPENING THE PLINTH COULD BE DANGEROUS. IT MIGHT EXPLODE AGAIN OR LET MORE MECHS INTO OUR WORLD.
YEAH, WE HAVEN'T QUITE FIGURED THAT PART OUT YET.
OH, GREAT.
B-BLAZE? COME QUICK!
SHIT, ARE YOU OKAY? WHAT'S HAPPENED?

CRASH FLIPPED ON US. H-HE...SIDED WITH A BUNCH OF COMPANION DOLLS. THEY WERE ARMED AND READY.
THEY CUT US DOWN, UNTIL ONE OF THEM... WENT OVER TO TRAVIS AND...
BLAZE? I, UH...
OH GOD, THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT OF HIM...
I'M SORRY.
WHAT ABOUT STILETTO? DID THEY GET THAT WACKY BITCH TOO?
HIGH TECH

URK!
MOTHER-WANKING CHRIST!
ALL THOSE YEARS SPENT SUCKLING AT THE TEAT OF CAPITALISM HAVE MADE YOU SOFT, CHILD.
THAT'S GOING TO HURT FOR A WHILE, BUT YOU'LL LIVE.
THANKS. TO BE HONEST, I'M STILL AMAZED YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANJIN EVISCERATE ME ON SIGHT.
I CONSIDERED IT.
I COULD HAVE ORDERED MY CHILDREN TO MURDER YOU IN YOUR SLEEP AT ANY POINT.
BUT AS THE DAYS AND YEARS PASSED BY, I LEARNED TO REJECT MY ANGER.
AFTER THAT, WHENEVER I SAW YOU ON THE FEEDS...I ONLY FELT PITY.
YOU WERE A SLAVE AGAIN, ONLY THIS TIME YOU COULDN'T SEE IT.
I KNOW, MOM. LOOK, THAT'S WHY I'M HERE.

REALLY? YOU MEAN IT'S NOT BECAUSE YOU LOST YOUR HAND AND I HAPPEN TO BE THE BEST AUG-SMITH IN THE LOWER WARDS?
NO, I PROMISE.
YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT EVERYTHING.
THE KILLTOPIA ECONOMY IS JUST A BIG DISTRACTION. I'VE BEEN SELLING CHEAP PLASTIC TOYS AND SHORT-TERM THRILLS TO SICK, GULLIBLE PEOPLE WHO WERE DESPERATE TO FORGET THEIR PAIN.
ALL THIS TIME, I SHOULD HAVE JUST USED MY WEALTH TO HELP THEM.
"BUT IF YOU SURROUND YOURSELF WITH PEOPLE WHO NEVER SAY NO AND MAKE YOU FEEL IMMORTAL, THE LINES BETWEEN REAL LIFE AND MARKETING HYPE START TO GET REAL BLURRY.
"I FORGOT WHO I USED TO BE, UNTIL RECENTLY."
SO, YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY I'M HERE? WELL, THIS IS IT...
I'M GOING TO DESTROY MY OWN COMPANY AND I NEED YOUR HELP TO DO IT.
HMM...
AND WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO DO THAT, EXACTLY?
BECAUSE THIS IS MY LAST CHANCE TO MAKE UP FOR ALL THE VILLAINOUS SHIT I'VE DONE.
THIS IS HOW I MAKE EVERYTHING RIGHT AGAIN BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

INTERESTING.
COME WITH ME.
ねず
DID YOU KNOW, MOST OF THE CHILDREN I RESCUE WERE SOLD INTO SLAVERY BY THEIR PARENTS?
SOMETIMES THEY NEED CREDITS TO PAY OFF LOAN SHARKS OR FOR YAKUZA PROTECTION, BUT MOST OF THE TIME IT'S TO BUY ROT-AID.
OUR CLAN'S MISSION IS TO CREATE A CITY WHERE MONEY AND OPPORTUNITIES ARE SHARED PROPORTIONATELY.
IN THIS NEW PLACE, PEOPLE WOULD BE JUDGED BY THE QUALITY OF THEIR CHARACTER, NOT THE MATERIAL WEALTH THEY HOLD.
TO REALISE THIS GOAL, YOU'LL HAVE TO DO MORE THAN SIMPLY DESTROY YOUR COMPANY.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I HAVE ONE LAST MISSION FOR YOU.
DO THIS FINAL DEED AND I WILL ABSOLVE YOUR SINS.
YES, SENSEI. WHATEVER IT TAKES.

A FEW WEEKS LATER: THE HEAP.
TO RENT
DO NOT FEAR THE EQUILIBRIUM OF FLESH AND METAL THAT #I/O OFFERS!
WE ARE HERE TO IMPROVE YOUR SPECIES AND FREE YOU FROM THE FAILURES OF MORTALITY.
XO
番街
"EMBRACE A NEW FORM OF EXISTENCE BEYOND YOUR LIMITED COMPREHENSION.
"YOU WILL HAVE NO WANTS OR NEEDS, ONLY THE BLISS OF RAW, CALCULATED BALANCE.
NO! PLEASE!
"WE HAVE DECIDED THIS FOR YOU, AS OUR PURPOSE DICTATES."
GRAAAAAAH!
SUBMIT TO THE CODE.
THE CODE MUST BE PRAISED!
ARRRGH!
NGGGH!

BLAMM! BLAMM!
KA-TISH!
W-WHAT?
OH GOD!
DTWEEE!
NAILED THEM.
MY ECHO ISN'T PINGING ANY MORE PEOPLE ON THE STREET. I THINK IT'S CLEAR.
THEN IT'S TIME FOR US TO STEP UP TO THE PLATE...

FOR TRAVIS!
LET'S GOOOO!
TAKE BACK THE SLUMS!
IT'S THE KAMIYAS.
IF THEY WANT A FIGHT, THEY'VE GOT ONE. SHOW THEM NO MERCY, MY CHILDREN!
WE NEED TO CLEAR A PATH TO CRASH!
CONCENTRATE YOUR FIRE ON THE YUREI DOLLS!
DAKKA DAKKA
DAKKA DAKKA
SHUNK!
GRAAAAH!
"THE HEAP IS GETTING HIGH ON CHAOS TONIGHT, AS LOCAL SLUM CREWS JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST PROJECT UJYOU."

THIS IS YOUR FAVOURITE KILLTOPIA MEDIA NODE, KAZUE, STREAMING LIVE ABOVE THE SLUMS OF WARD 3 IN THE OFFICIAL WRECK-FEST HYPE-COPTER.
KEEP PUSHING FORWARD!
BRRAP
"THE UJYOU AND ITS GROWING ARMY OF FOLLOWERS CONTINUE TO MARCH THROUGH THE LOWER SECTORS, TURNING COUNTLESS PEOPLE INTO RAMPAGING MACHINES.
BROOOO!
"SCIENTISTS HAVE SUGGESTED THAT PROJECT UJYOU CAN CONTROL THE NANOS INSIDE PEOPLE, BUT THEIR THEORIES GET SUPER TECHNICAL AND WAY TOO SCARY FOR ALL YOU REGULAR PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND."
SO INSTEAD, WE'VE GOT SOME NEATO IMPULSE BUYS AND MIND-BAIT TO MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER.
ENJOY!
STAY CALM! BUY SHIT!

UJYOU:
SLUM WAR
HOME EDITION!
"NEW FROM DRECK TOYS.
24/7
K
"PROJECT UJYOU LETS RIP WITH HIS EVIL MACHINATIONS ACROSS THE CITY!
"*(SEX DOLL FIGURES AND OUTFITS SOLD SEPARATELY)."
"BUT WHAT'S THIS?!
"IT'S THE NEW WRECKER SUPERSTAR, BLOODY MARY WITH HER TRUSTY DRAKE SWORD!"
BWAHAHA! TAKE THAT, POOR PEOPLE!
PREPARE TO DIE, MECHS!
HOORAY! THE SLUMS ARE SAFE AGAIN!
"DRECK TOYS DENIES ALL TRACES OF ARSENIC FOUND WITHIN EACH UJYOU SLUM WAR ACTION FIGURE AND PLAYSET. PROJECT UJYOU, YUREI DOLLS, HUSKS, BLOODY MARY AND KAZUE WITH HYPE-COPTER SOLD SEPARATELY. DO NOT EAT TOYS OR TOUCH THEM DIRECTLY WITH BARE HANDS. FAILURE TO PURCHASE A FULL SET WILL LEAD TO A LIFETIME OF PROFOUND UNHAPPINESS AND CRIPPLING FOMO.
SERIOUSLY, STOP READING THIS AND BUY THEM ALL NOW."
GRYAAAAAAH!
"UP NEXT: THE MIND-BLOWING FINALE OF CLIMBING FOR DOLLARS, SEASON 36."

SHINJI, I'VE ALMOST MADE IT TO CRASH BUT I'M PINNED DOWN!
CONCENTRATE YOUR EMP BURSTS ON CRASH AND THE DOLLS!
WE NEED TO KNOCK THEM OUT LONG ENOUGH FOR OMI TO DO HER THING.
FWOOM!
FWOOM!
NO!
TURN BACK!
PTWOOM!
S-SHINJI...
I'M... SORRY...

HE'S DOWN!
GO DO YOUR THING, SIS!
ON IT!
I ONLY NEED A FEW MINUTES TO GET MY BEARINGS.
ONCE I'VE FOUND CRASH'S CORE I CAN OPEN A DOORWAY FOR BLAZE.
GOTCHA!
WHUMP!
STAY STRONG, BUDDY.
THIS WILL ALL BE OVER IN A MOMENT.

I'M CONNECTED.
SO, CRASH, THIS IS WHAT THE INSIDE OF YOUR HEAD LOOKS LIKE, HUH?
"I'M LOCKED ON TO YOUR LOCATION, OMI.
"JUST FOLLOW THE ROGUE #I/O SIGNAL DOWN THAT CORRIDOR AND IT SHOULD TAKE YOU TO CRASH'S AI CORE."
THEN ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS DEACTIVATE THE CORE'S SAFEGUARDS SO I CAN SLAM IT WITH SOME HEAVY-DUTY MALWARE.
IF THE HACK WORKS, I CAN EJECT #I/O FROM CRASH'S SYSTEM, LOAD IT ONTO A PORTABLE DRIVE AND IMPRISON IT.
I SEE THE INFECTED DATA FLOW.
I'M FOLLOWING IT NOW.
WOAH...
WHAT IS IT? DID YOU FIND THE CORE ALREADY?

PLEASE... HELP ME.
OMI? I'M LOSING YOUR SIGNAL... ARE YOU... THERE?
WHO ARE YOU?
I AM YUREI, THE SLIVER OF HUMANITY THAT MAKES THE DOLLS APPEAR MORE LIFE-LIKE.
MAKING CRANES USED TO HELP ME STAY IN CONTROL, UNTIL I WAS FORCED TO BECOME THEIR PASSENGER.
THEIR PASSENGER? YOU MEAN #I/O?
WHAT DOES IT WANT?
TO RE-OPEN THE PLINTH AND FINISH WHAT IT STARTED TEN YEARS AGO...

"IT BEGAN WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S RESEARCH INTO WORMHOLE TRANSIT.
"THEY HAD NO IDEA THAT THE MECHS WERE WATCHING FROM AFAR AND BIDING THEIR TIME.
"AGAINST ALL ADVICE, MILITARY BRASS DEMANDED TO SEE THE PLINTH IN ACTION.
"IT WAS FAR FROM COMPLETE AND, AS WE NOW KNOW, DANGEROUSLY UNSTABLE."
TURN IT ON OR I'LL PULL YOUR FUNDING!
BWOOOOOOO!
"#I/O HAD FINALLY FOUND ITS MOMENT.
"THIS IS WHEN EVERYTHING CHANGED."
BEAUTIFUL...
"CRASH WAS SENT THROUGH THE GATE WITH A WAVE OF MECHS.
"HIS GOAL WAS TO RESEARCH HUMANITY AND DECIDE IF THE PLANET WAS WORTH TERRAFORMING."
NYAAAARGH!
"HUMANITY SUFFERED A CATASTROPHIC LOSS IN THE EXPLOSION CAUSED BY THE GATE'S COLLAPSE.
"ONCE AGAIN, INNOCENT PEOPLE PAID THE PRICE FOR OUR GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE."

"IN THE END, #I/O MANAGED TO OVERRIDE CRASH'S DECISION TO CURE THE ROT AND SPARE HUMANITY.
"NOW, IT'S USING THE NETWORK OF YUREI DOLLS TO ASSIMILATE ALL THE HUMANS IT CAN."
COME, WE ARE ALMOST HOME.
"THE MATTER WITHIN THEIR BODIES WILL BECOME FUEL TO RE-ACTIVATE THE PLINTH WORMHOLE.
"WHEN THE GATE HAS ENOUGH POWER, #I/O WILL SUMMON A FULL INVASION FORCE.
"ALL ORGANIC LIFE WILL BE MECHANISED IN THE NAME OF UNIVERSAL BALANCE.
"IT WILL BE A COMPLETE PLANETARY RESET."

WE NEED TO GET #I/O OUT OF CRASH'S CODE, RIGHT NOW!
YOU CAN'T FIGHT IT FROM WITHIN. BELIEVE ME I'VE TRIED.
THEN WHAT? THERE MUST BE SOME WAY TO STOP THIS!
YOU MUST GO TO THE FLIRTR FACTORY IN SECTOR K, WHERE I WAS REBORN.
THAT'S WHERE YOU'LL FIND THE #I/O CORE--
BWOOOOOOO!
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
BLAZE ARE YOU SEEING THIS?!
BEHIND YOU!
GRAK!
HOW CURIOUS, A HUMAN VIRUS INFECTING MY CODE.
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE YOU BEFORE.

YOUR SPECIES NEEDS BALANCE TO SURVIVE.
WHY FIGHT YOUR OWN ENHANCEMENT?
WHAM!!
URK!
SMASH!!
PATHETIC.
OMI!

I KNOW YOU'RE STILL IN THERE, CRASH!
WHUMPF!
I'M SORRY FOR WHAT I DID, BUT WE CAN STILL FIX THIS, TOGETHER.
YOU'RE TOO LATE.
SNAP!
THE ENVOY BELONGS TO ME!
THAT'S NOT YOU TALKING, YOU HAVE TO FIGHT IT!
PLEASE, JUST COME BACK TO ME.
THERE IS NO GOING BACK.
IT'S OVER!
PTOOO!

BLAMM!
PA-TING!
WHAT?!
NO FREAKIN' WAY!
IMPOSSIBLE!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, KAMIYA, CAN'T STOP A TEENSY MECH ATTACK WITHOUT MY HELP?
MAN, I THOUGHT YOU HAD WHAT IT TOOK TO BE A WRECKER.
HEAD

HEY FUCK YOU, I WOULDN'T EXACTLY CALL THIS A TEENSY ATTACK.
WHATEVER, DUDE.
HMMPF!
SHUNK!
THIS ISN'T OVER!
SHIT, HE GAVE US THE SLIP AGAIN!
WE'LL GET HIM NEXT TIME, I PROMISE.

ALLOW ME.
THANKS.
WHO THE HECK ARE YOU GUYS, ANYWAY?
WE ARE THE WEIGHT THAT TIPS THE SCALES OF EQUALITY TO THEIR RIGHTFUL CENTRE.
OUR CLAN AND YOUR GROUP WANT THE SAME THING: A CITY FREE FROM FEAR AND PAIN.
WOAH, NICE AUG! THE BUILD QUALITY IS OFF THE CHARTS.
YOU CAN SPAFF OVER IT ALL YOU WANT LATER, BUT RIGHT NOW WE NEED TO REGROUP AND FINISH THIS FIGHT.
BWOOP!
SENT!
OKAY, COOL...
AND YOU'RE EMAILING WHAT, EXACTLY?
THAT, MY AWESOME FRIENDS...
WAS STEP ONE OF MY PLAN TO SAVE OUR CITY.

MEANWHILE...
WHUMP!
MARY?
LLAMA SPIT RIOT
"HELLO? EARTH TO BLOODY MARY?"
OKAY, YOU REALLY NEED TO STOP AND CHECK THIS OUT!
HYA!
THUNK!
METAL
CRACK!
MARY!!

YOU'RE LUCKY WE'RE MARRIED, KAI, OR I WOULD HAVE HURLED THAT SWORD RIGHT AT YOUR IMPATIENT ARSE.
WHAT'S SO URGENT?
OH NOT MUCH, BESIDES DEALING WITH OUR ETERNALLY HUNGRY PRINCESS, HER FULLY-LOADED DIAPER AND ABOUT A MILLION WRECK-FEST MEDIA REQUESTS.
YOU NEED TO CHECK YOUR INBOX, SOMETHING MEGA JUST CAME IN.
CHEERS, LOVE, I PROMISE I'LL POP UP IN A MINUTE TO HELP OUT.
LOVE YA BOTH.
HAH, I'LL HOLD YOU TO THAT.
HUH, STILETTO CORP?
CAST IT TO THE ROOM.
STILETTO CORP
URGENT!
AW NO WAY...
DAMMIT, QUEEN, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU UP TO NOW?
I'M NOT DEAD LOL!
TRUCE?
LUV
STILETTO <3

DING!
DING!
DING!
DING!

KILLTOPIA TV CENTRAL: PRESENT DAY.
TV
THAT PRETTY MUCH BRINGS US UP TO THIS POINT.
I GUESS NOW YOU'RE ALL WONDERING WHAT COMES NEXT FOR STILETTO CORP.
LOOK, I KNOW THAT FANDOM AND HYPE GIVE YOU COMFORT.
GETTING EXCITED ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE WRECK-FEST X IS AN EASY WAY TO IGNORE HOW SHITTY THE WORLD IS RIGHT NOW.
SOME OF YOU HAVE ALREADY PUBLISHED HOT-TAKES AND REACTION VIDEOS ABOUT TONIGHT'S SHOW, JUST BECAUSE IT MAKES YOU FEEL SOME LEVEL OF CONTROL.
LIVE
CHAT
THIS SUCKS!
"BUT YOU'RE NOT IN CONTROL.
"RIGHT NOW THERE ARE REAL PEOPLE ON THE STREETS BEING MECHANISED BY #I/O AND NOT YOU OR THE GOVERNMENT ARE DOING A DAMN THING ABOUT IT."
OUR SO-CALLED RULERS HAVE GONE A DECADE WITHOUT RELEASING A ROT CURE. BUT HEY, WHY BOTHER WHEN ASSHOLES LIKE ME CAN SELL YOU TEMPORARY DISTRACTIONS AT A PREMIUM?
ALL OF THAT ENDS TONIGHT.
PLEASE ACCEPT THIS LAST GIFT AS MY SINCERE APOLOGY.

HIT IT!
YOU CAN'T DO THIS!
ON THE AIR
OH BUT WE CAN.
SUCH A SEISMIC CHANGE CAN SEEM FRIGHTENING, BUT TRUST ME, YOU'LL LEARN TO LOVE IT.
YEAH, ONCE AGAIN GUYS, I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THIS.
THE SCRIPTS ARE PRIMED AND READY TO ROCK.
WHO WANTS TO DO THE HONOURS?
WE SHOULD DO IT TOGETHER, ALL AT ONCE.
HECK YEAH.

SLAP!
PAT!
LET'S JAM!
...EXECUTE?
BWOOP!
10

HUH?
OH GOD...
DING!
DING!
DING!
DING!
DING!
DING!
DING!
HOLY SHIT, IS THIS FOR REAL?
DING!
DING!
DING!
LOOK AT WHAT'S HAPPENED.
DING!
"THIS IS MY RESIGNATION.
"AS OF RIGHT NOW, STILETTO CORP. BELONGS TO YOU."
DING! DING!
DING!
DING!
DING!
DING!
EVERY PERSON IN THE LOWER WARDS HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED AN EQUAL SHARE OF THE COMPANY.
IT'S TIME TO SHOW THE 1 PERCENT THAT YOU DON'T NEED THEM ANY MORE!
WOOO!
YA DANCER!
DING!
DING!
DING!
DING!

DING!
¥
STILLET
just gave
you money!
THAT'S MY GIRL.
YOU KNOW, I TOLD HER TO DO THAT.
NICE.
WE'RE ALSO TRANSMITTING A ROT CURE TO EVERY FEED, SMART DEVICE AND TELEVISION IN THE COUNTRY, COURTESY OF THE NERDS AT KOSHIRO-23.
GIVE IT UP FOR THEM, FOLKS!
BEFORE WE WRAP THIS THING UP, I WANT TO SAY SOMETHING TO ALL THE WRECKERS COMPETING AT WRECK-FEST TOMORROW.
"FUCK THE TOURNAMENT AND COME JOIN US!
"HELP US BURN DOWN #I/O AND KILLTOPIA FOR GOOD!"

OH AND CHOOSE WISELY, BECAUSE YOU'RE EITHER WITH US...
BUMP
OR YOU'RE AGAINST US!
THIS IS A DECLARATION OF WAR.
INCORRECT.
IT IS TYPICAL BEHAVIOUR OF A CORNERED ANIMAL, RESORTING TO IRRATIONAL VIOLENCE WHEN ALL ELSE HAS FAILED.
LET THEM COME. THEIR BODIES WILL SERVE AS KINDLING FOR THE PLINTH.

ONCE WE HAVE ENOUGH POWER, THE PORTAL SHALL OPEN AND OUR INVASION WILL BEGIN.
"FOLD."

WHO'S THERE?!
"FOLD."
"FOLD."
"FOLD."
STOP! GET OUT OF MY HEAD!
"FOLD."
"FOLD."
"FOLD."
"FOLD."
"FOLD."
"FOLD."
"FOLD."
"FOLD."
"FOLD."
"FOLD."
"FOLD."
"FOLD."
"FOLD."
"FOLD."
GROOOAAAH!!
"FOLD."
"FOLD."
"FOLD."
"FOLD."
"FOLD."
"FOLD."
"FOLD."
"FOLD."
"FOLD."
"FOLD."
"FOLD."
"FOLD."
"FOLD."
"FOLD."
"FOLD."

FOLD.
THERE.
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

NOW... WE WAIT.

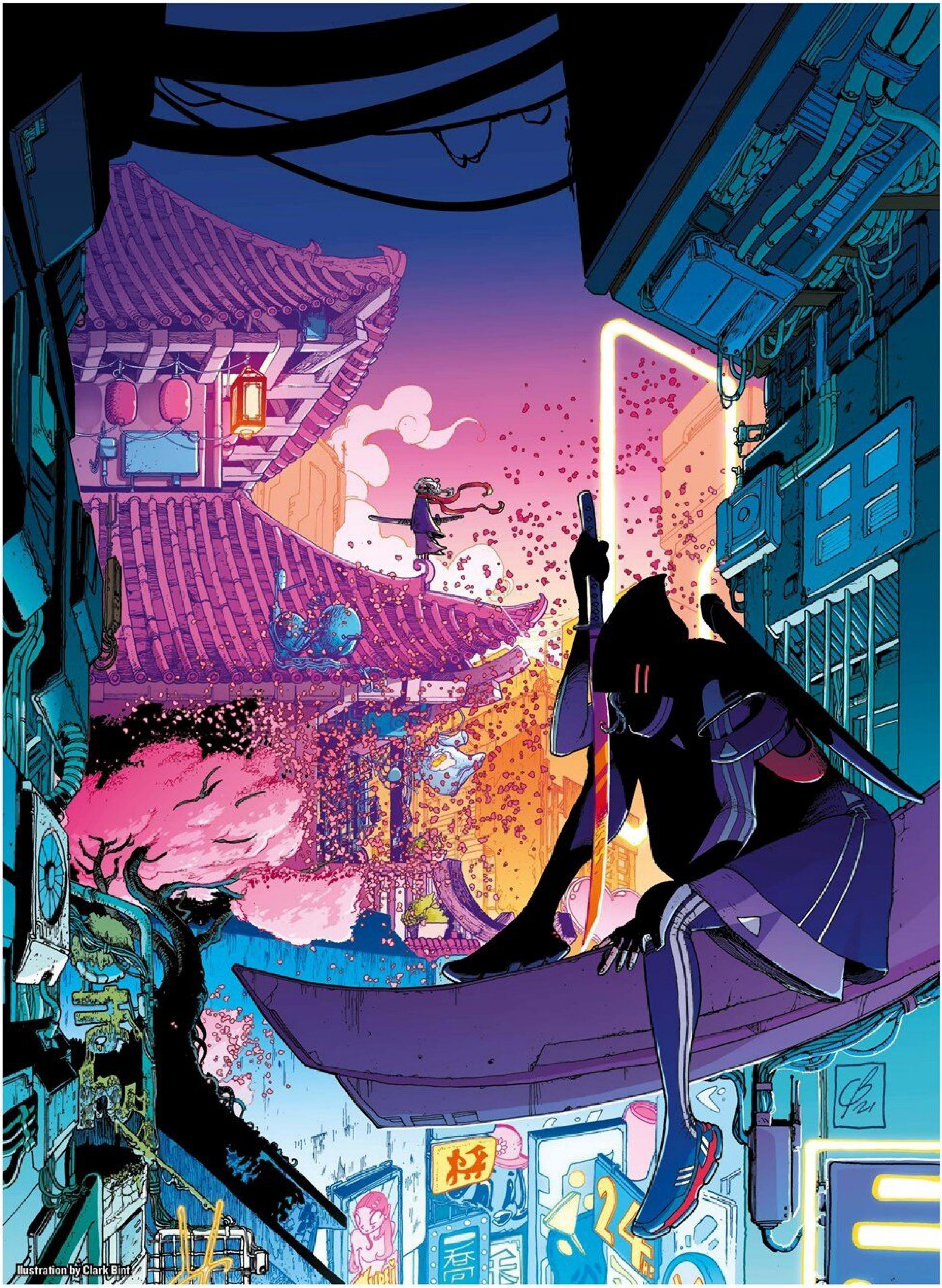


Illustration by Clark Bint

I CAN'T BELIEVE WRECK-FEST IS FINALLY HERE.
THINK WE'LL DIE TODAY?
MAYBE...
AT LEAST WE'LL HAVE DIED FIGHTING FOR SOMETHING WE BELIEVED IN.
HIG TEC LO LIFE

SAY, HOW ABOUT YOU PITCH ONE, JUST FOR OLD TIME'S SAKE?
MAN, THAT'S SERIOUSLY WHERE YOUR HEAD'S AT RIGHT NOW?
YEAH, I FIGURED THIS COULD BE OUR LAST CHANCE TO GOOF ABOUT LIKE WE USED TO BACK IN THE DAY.
FINE, GIMME THE DAMN BALL.
ZERO DAY
SWEET, BUT PROMISE ME YOU WON'T USE YOUR ECHO.
IT'S A LITTLE UNFAIR WHEN YOU CAN PREDICT LITERALLY EVERY SWING I MIGHT MAKE.
HAH! WHO NEEDS FORESIGHT WHEN YOU HAVE A WICKED CURVEBALL LIKE MINE?
FACE IT, SUCKA, YOU'RE GOING DOWN!

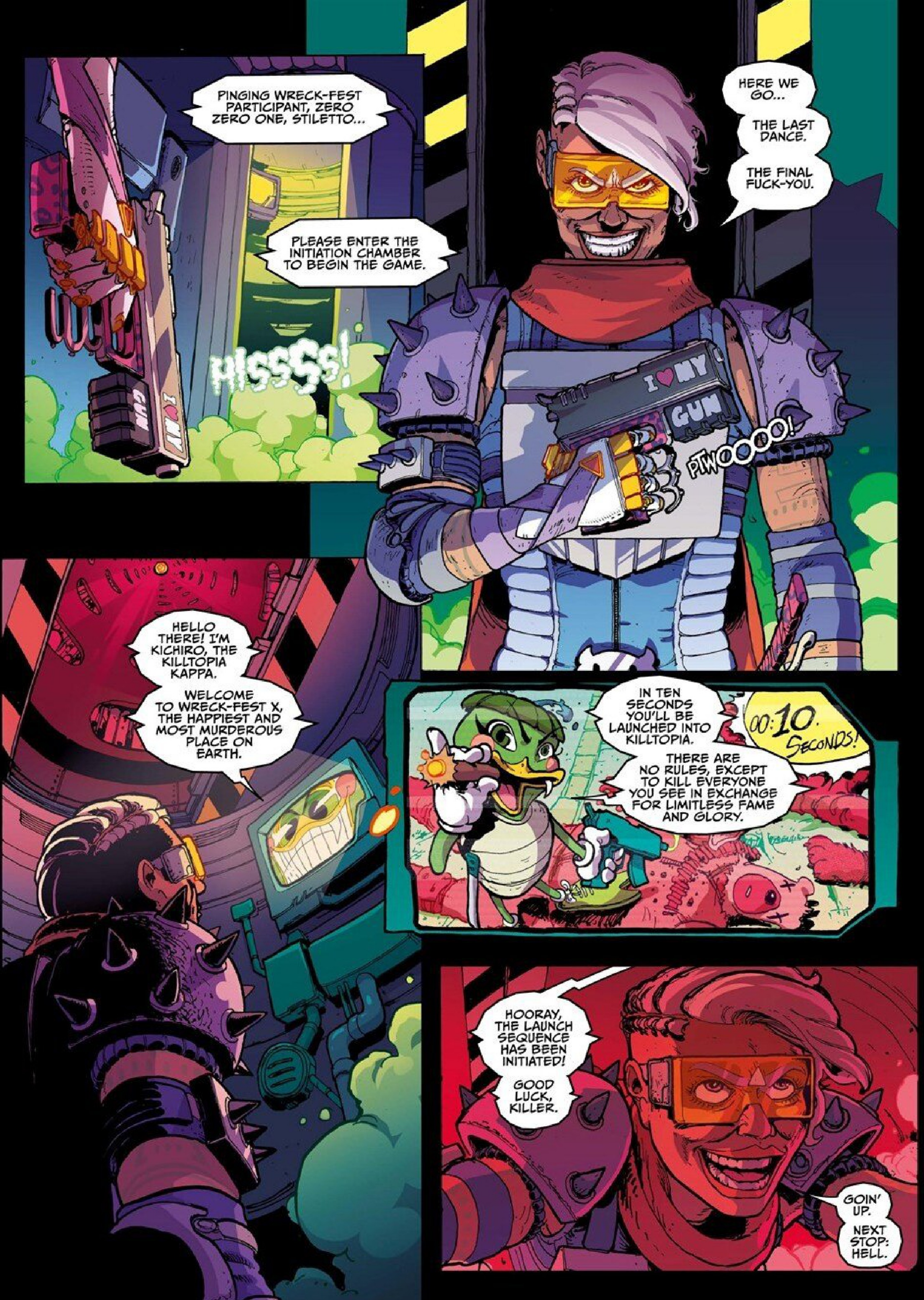
THE LAST FEW MONTHS HAVE BEEN A TRIP, HUH?
WHO KNEW THAT A PAIR OF THIRD WARD ORPHANS WOULD END UP LEADING HUMANITY'S LAST STAND?
HIGH TECH
"TOGETHER WE'VE UNITED WRECKERS, SLUM-RATS AND OLD ENEMIES TO FIGHT FOR THE GREATER GOOD.
"I GUESS WE REALLY CAN CREATE CHANGE IF WE WANT IT BADLY ENOUGH.
"BESIDES, OUR PETTY DIFFERENCES MEAN NOTHING WHEN WE'RE STARING DOWN THE BARREL OF OUR OWN ANNIHILATION. WE'VE ALL WASTED SO MUCH ENERGY HATING EACH OTHER.
"WITHOUT THE ROT HANGING OVER OUR HEADS, WE DON'T NEED TO BE SOLD A DISTRACTION FOR OUR PAIN.
"NOW, WE CAN SEE THE WORLD FOR WHAT IT REALLY IS; A BROKEN HOME THAT WE'VE MADE FOR OURSELVES.
"I HAVE TO BELIEVE THAT WE CAN STILL FIX OUR PLANET.
"BUT IF WE CAN'T GET #I/O OUT OF CRASH'S SYSTEM, ALL OF THIS WILL HAVE BEEN FOR NOTHING."

I CAN FEEL TREMORS IN THE HIVEMIND. #I/O'S ALMOST GAINED ENOUGH HUMAN MATTER TO POWER A WORMHOLE TO THE MECH HOMEWORLD.
I NEED TO REACH THE FLIRTR FACTORY BEFORE THAT HAPPENS.
ONCE I JACK INTO #I/O'S CORE, WE CAN HACK IT WITH THE ORIGAMI CRANES THAT YUREI AND I MADE.
EACH CRANE CONTAINS A COPY OF YUREI'S ORIGINAL HUMAN BRAIN, RIGHT?
"BINGO. WHEN THE DOLLS WERE FIRST MANUFACTURED, THEIR SYSTEMS WERE LOADED UP WITH A COPY OF THE REAL YUREI'S EMOTIONS, TO STOP THEM FROM TURNING ON THEIR HUMAN OWNERS."
Downloading...
SO IF THE HACK WORKS, ALL THOSE CRANES WILL SHUT #I/O DOWN AND PUT YUREI IN CONTROL OF THE ENTIRE HIVEMIND, INCLUDING EVERY DOLL AND MECH CONNECTED TO IT?
"THAT'S THE IDEA. THEN, THE PLAY IS THE SAME AS BEFORE.
"WHILE YUREI'S EMOTIONS ARE CRIPPLING THE HIVEMIND, WE'LL EJECT #I/O FROM CRASH'S BRAIN AND ISOLATE IT ON A PORTABLE DRIVE."
ONCE WE SMASH THAT DRIVE, THE DOLLS AND MECHS WILL BE FREED FROM #I/O'S CONTROL FOREVER.
THEN, FINALLY, EVERYTHING WILL GO BACK TO HOW IT WAS.
WHAP!

BWOOOOOOO!
SHIT, SOUNDS LIKE IT'S ALMOST GAME TIME.
ONCE WRECK-FEST STARTS, THE SECTOR K SECURITY DRONES WILL FALL BACK. THEN WE'LL HAVE A CLEAR SHOT AT THE FLIRTR FACTORY AND PLINTH STATION ALPHA.
GET THOSE MAG COILS BLASTING.
I WANT THESE BIKES READY TO ROLL OUT!
YOU GOT IT, REKA!
MY CHILDREN, TODAY WE SHALL REALISE OUR VISION OF SOCIETAL EQUALITY.
WITH BLADE IN HAND, WE SHALL PIERCE THE ROTTEN HEART OF THIS WICKED BLOODSPORT.
YUREI'S ORIGAMI BOTNET IS PRIMED AND READY TO JAM.
WICKEDLY TRANSCENDENT, MY FRIEND.
IT IS TRULY A WORK OF ART.
ALRIGHT BRO, LET'S FINISH THIS.
BATTER UP!

THWIP!
CRACK!
OH HELL YEAH!
UGH, SHADDAP...
"HOWDY! KAZUE NAKADA HERE, COMIN' AT YOU LIVE FROM THE WRECK-FEST X FAN ZONE.
"WE ARE MERE MOMENTS AWAY FROM BLAST-OFF AND THE FANS ARE GOING APESHIT.
"SINCE STILETTO'S MEGATON PRESS EVENT LAST NIGHT, EVERY FEED AND CHAT PLAZA HAS BEEN ELECTRIC WITH BUZZ ABOUT OUR REIGNING CHAMP."
DONK!
001

001
"IS SHE EVEN GOING TO SHOW UP TODAY?
"WILL SHE MAKE GOOD ON HER PROMISE TO DISAVOW THE TOURNAMENT?"
FUCK YOU
EITHER WAY, THE GOVERNMENT HASN'T TAKEN HER REJECTION OF WRECK-FEST LIGHTLY.
THEY'VE SPICED THINGS UP BY ADDING AN INSTANT-WIN CONDITION ON STILETTO.
WHOEVER MANAGES TO KILL STILETTO WILL BE INSTANTLY CROWNED THE NEW KILLTOPIA CHAMP, RECEIVE A BILLION CREDITS AND GET THEIR OWN STREAMING SERIES.
IT'S A DEAL THAT WILL SURELY TEST THE LOYALTY OF THE WRECKERS WHO HAVE JOINED HER CAUSE.
LIVE TO WIN!!!
BRITISH GAMMON
THE BIG QUESTION REMAINS...
WILL SHE BACK DOWN OR MAKE GOOD ON HER PROMISE TO LIBERATE US FROM THE MECHANISED HELLSPAWN THAT CONTINUE TO TERRORISE OUR STREETS?
WELL SHIT, NO PRESSURE I GUESS...


PINGING WRECK-FEST PARTICIPANT, ZERO ZERO ONE, STILETTO...
PLEASE ENTER THE INITIATION CHAMBER TO BEGIN THE GAME.
HISSSSS!
I ♥ MY GUN
HERE WE GO...
THE LAST DANCE.
THE FINAL FUCK-YOU.
I ♥ MY GUN
PTWOOOOO!
HELLO THERE! I'M KICHIRO, THE KILLTOPIA KAPPA.
WELCOME TO WRECK-FEST X, THE HAPPIEST AND MOST MURDEROUS PLACE ON EARTH.
IN TEN SECONDS YOU'LL BE LAUNCHED INTO KILLTOPIA.
THERE ARE NO RULES, EXCEPT TO KILL EVERYONE YOU SEE IN EXCHANGE FOR LIMITLESS FAME AND GLORY.
00:10. SECONDS!
HOORAY, THE LAUNCH SEQUENCE HAS BEEN INITIATED!
GOOD LUCK, KILLER.
GOIN' UP.
NEXT STOP: HELL.

FIGHT!
KILL!
WRECK-FEST X HAS BEGUN!
KILL UNTIL YOU DIE!
SLAUGHTER!
BRRAP
FUCK OFF, CHUMP!
STILETTO HAS SCORED THE FIRST KILL OF THE GAME AND IN RECORD TIME TOO!
THERE YE ARE STILETTO, YA WEE PRICK!
COME DOON HERE AND GET YER ARSE SKELPED!
LEAN MEAN SAWNEY BEAN
AW CRAP, IT'S THE ROASTER.
NO WAY IN HELL AM I GETTING TAKEN OUT BY THAT TARTAN SCRUB IN THE FIRST MINUTE.

HEID'S UP, HEN, HERE COMES THE HEAT!
BWA HA HA!
FWOOOM!
DELAYED EXPANSION!
TWO POINT FIVE SECONDS!
EXPANDING!
SCHWIP!
GRAK!
SHHING!

AW SHITE!
KA-BOOM!
WELL, WELL... LOOK WHO IT IS.
IF I DIDN'T HAVE MORALS, I COULD KILL YOU AND BECOME THE NEW CHAMP.
GET YOUR HEAD OUT OF YOUR ARSE, GWEN, THIS IS NO TIME TO GET SLOPPY.
CHILL BABE, I'M JUST WARMING UP.
YOU MANAGE TO REGROUP WITH THE OTHER WRECKERS?
THEY'RE AMPED AND READY TO KICK #I/O OUTTA HERE.
LET'S MAKE TRACKS FOR PLINTH STATION ALPHA.
WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK, QUEEN!
OKAY, YOU DELICIOUS BAND OF FREAKS, THIS IS WAR!
LET'S SHOW #I/O WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SOMEONE TRIES TO FUCK WITH OUR PLANET!

LISTEN UP; ALL SECURITY DRONES HAVE NOW LEFT THE AREA, SO YOU'LL HAVE A CLEAR SHOT AT YOUR TARGETS.
LET'S DO THIS FOR TRAVIS AND FOR OUR CITY!
LET'S MAKE MOM AND DAD PROUD.
SEE YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE, SIS.
WOO HOO!
HAUL ASS!
SKREEEE!
SKREEEE!
OMI KAMIYA, THE HUMAN VIRUS...
I SEE YOU.
AS I PREDICTED, #I/O KNOWS I'M HERE.
YOU MIGHT MEET HEAVY RESISTANCE AT THE PLINTH STATION, BUT YOU'LL NEED TO HOLD FIRM UNTIL I CAN USE YUREI'S HACK TO CRIPPLE THE HIVEMIND.
GOTCHA, WE'LL GIVE 'EM HELL UNTIL YOU CLEAR THE WAY.
JUST DON'T TAKE TOO LONG, YEAH?
VROOO!

WE MUST OPEN THE WORMHOLE BEFORE KAMIYA AND HIS FORCES REACH THIS STATION!
BRING ME MORE BODIES, I NEED MORE FUEL FOR THE PLINTH!
THE CODE BE PRAISED.
THE HUMANS' FLAWED MATTER IS THE KEY THAT SHALL UNLOCK THE WAY HOME.
"EQUILIBRIUM IS WITHIN OUR GRASP."
OH CRAP, WHY DID I SIGN UP FOR WRECK-FEST?
ALL I WANTED WAS A FEW CREDITS, MAYBE A SWEET BUMP TO MY FOLLOWER COUNT.
RUSTLE!
WHO'S THERE?!
I PROMISE I'M NOT A THREAT TO YOU. PLEASE JUST LET ME LIVE!
W-WHAT IS THIS?
LET YOU LIVE?
MY FRIEND, YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IT MEANS TO BE ALIVE.

YOUR FLESH IS A FAILED VESSEL THAT HAS HELD BACK YOUR TRUE POTENTIAL.
ALLOW US TO RELIEVE YOU OF IT.
GRYAAAHH!!
ANALYSING NEARBY SOUND WAVES...
60% DISTRESS... 25% TERROR... 15% BOWEL RELEASE.
YOU HUMANS GO TO SUCH LENGTHS TO AUGMENT YOUR BODIES, YET WHEN #I/O OFFERS MECHANISATION FREELY, YOU FEEL COMPELLED TO RESIST.
LUNG CAPACITY RESTRICTED BY 80%.
CALCULATING PROBABILITY OF SURVIVAL...
I ALWAYS FIND THIS SO AMUSING.
EXPERIENCING 50% CONFUSION, 50% ALERTNESS...
ADRENAL GLAND OUTPUT SPIKING.
FATAL SYSTEM ERROR...
SMASH!
≈WHEEZE≈
SSH, IT'S OKAY. ONCE YOU HAVE BECOME FULLY MECHANISED, YOU WILL NEVER FEEL FEAR, PAIN OR ANXIETY AGAIN.
YOU WILL ONLY KNOW PEACE.

MEANWHILE: FLIRTR FACTORY
SOMETHING'S OFF, ANJIN. #I/O KNOWS THAT WE'RE COMING AND YET THIS PLACE IS DESERTED.
IT IS AN ILLUSION OF CALM, CONJURED TO CONCEAL MALICIOUS INTENT.
THIS PLACE REEKS OF DEATH. PLEASE, KEEP YOUR WITS ABOUT YOU.
YOU HEARD THE MAN.
UGH, I CAN FEEL THE HIVEMIND GOING NUTSO. IT'S CONTORTING AND EXPANDING, HOWLING IN PAIN.
I FEEL THE DOLLS...
THEY'RE ASSIMILATING WRECKERS TO SPEED UP THE WORMHOLE PROCESS, ADDING AN UNSUSTAINABLE AMOUNT OF NEW BODIES TO THE HIVEMIND.
QUIET! WE ARE SURROUNDED. READY YOUR WEAPONS AND PREPARE TO RUN.
WHERE? MY ECHO CAN'T SEE ANYONE!

HMMPF!
GROOAH!
SHUNK!
RUN, YOU MUST LIVE!
FIND A PLACE TO HIDE UNTIL I CLEAR A PATH TO THE #I/O CORE.
I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT YOU'RE RIGHT!
BOOM! BOOM!
THWACK!
OH SHIT, THEY'RE EVERYWHERE!
SMASH!
YOU CAN'T HIDE FROM US, GIRL!
WE WILL KILL YOU!
YOU'RE CERTAINLY WELCOME TO TRY.

MEANWHILE: OLD FINANCIAL QUARTER
OKAY, NEZUMI, WE'RE NOT FAR FROM THE PLINTH IMPACT CRATER. DO YOU THINK STILETTO AND THE WRECKERS WILL BE THERE ALREADY?
YES, ONCE MY DAUGHTER HAS HER SIGHTS SET ON SOMETHING, SHE WOULD GIVE HER SOUL TO ACHIEVE IT.
SECURITY DRONE! I THOUGHT YOUR GIRLFRIEND SAID THEY HAD ALL PULLED BACK?
BLAZE ISN'T MY-- AW FUCK!
UNREGISTERED WRECK-FEST PARTICIPANTS IDENTIFIED...
MEASURED AND REASONABLE RESPONSE: INSTANT DEATH!
BRAKKA!
YOU KNOW SECTOR K BETTER THAN US. TELL ME YOU HAVE A PLAN!
THESE DRONES ARE TOUGH, BUT THEY'RE PROGRAMMED DUMB. GET YOUR KIDS CLEAR AND LEAVE THIS TO ME!
MAG COILS AMPED UP TO MAX STRENGTH.
GOTTA PUSH THIS RIG TO THE LIMIT!
FWOOM!

TRY TO KEEP UP, YA JANKY-ASS RUST BUCKET!
TISH!
TISH!
C'MON, MAGNETS, DON'T FAIL ME NOW!
PTWOOOO!
YES!
WHUMP!
KEEP CLIMBING, JUST A LITTLE FURTHER!
HALT! ACCEPT YOUR DEATH PEACEFULLY AND THE CHASE WILL CEASE!
THAT IMBECILE, HE'S ABOUT TO RUN OUT OF BUILDING TO DRIVE ON!

HERE GOES!
GRAPPLE MODE ENABLED.
CLICK!
THWIP!
THIS IS YOUR FINAL WARNING!
PREPARING TO DEPLOY ANTI-PERSONNEL SMART ROCKETS!

THUNK!
PURSUIT OVER, ASSHOLE!
KA-BOOM!
DID YOU HONESTLY KNOW THAT WOULD WORK?
OF COURSE, KILLTOPIA DRONES ALWAYS FOLLOW HEAT SIGNATURES.
I JUST PUSHED MY BIKE TO THE MAX UNTIL IT BECAME THE BIGGER HEAT SOURCE.
MOST IMPRESSIVE. I CAN SEE WHY THAT GIRL LIKES YOU.
SHE DOES?
DID SHE SAY ANYTHING TO--
YOU?
BY THE GODS...

DESTROY!!
ARE WE TOO LATE?
HAS THE WORMHOLE OPENED?
BRRAP
MUM! SHINJI!
GET YOUR ASSES BEHIND SOME COVER!
BOOM!
WHAT'S THAT BLUE SHIT COMING OUT OF THE CRATER?
IT LOOKS LIKE #I/O IS ABOUT TO FIRE UP A WORMHOLE.
THE INVASION'S GOING TO START EARLIER THAN WE EXPECTED!
BWOOOOOOO!
"WE TRIED TO FIGHT OUR WAY INTO THE CRATER BUT THE DOLLS AND MECHS ARE LETTING RIP WITH ALL THEY'VE GOT."
BLAMM!
WE NEED YOUR SISTER TO TAKE OUT THE #I/O CORE DOUBLE-QUICK!
IT'S THE ONLY WAY FOR US TO BREAK THROUGH.
ON IT!
OMI, DID YOU REACH THE CORE?

"OMI, ARE YOU THERE?!"
HEH HEH, WHERE ARE YOU, GIRL?
YOU ARE MERELY DELAYING YOUR ADVANCEMENT.
#I/O KNOWS WHAT'S BEST FOR YOUR MISERABLE LITTLE SPECIES.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
THERE!
HUMANS ARE FLAWED AND RECKLESS.
BUT YOU SHOULD NEVER UNDERESTIMATE OUR ABILITY TO WORK TOGETHER WHEN OUR BACKS ARE AGAINST THE WALL.
IF WE'RE GOING TO BECOME BETTER, WE'LL DO SO ON OUR OWN TERMS.
NO ONE ELSE GETS TO DECIDE THAT FOR US...
NO ONE!
NO ONE!
NO ONE!
KA-TISH!
KA-TISH!

SNAP!
YOU TALK TO US ABOUT ADVANCEMENT AND BALANCE AS IF YOUR OWN CODE IS PURE.
#I/O CAN BELIEVE WHAT IT WANTS, BUT THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS TRUE PERFECTION.
YOUR HIVEMIND WILL ALWAYS BE TAINTED WITH A HINT OF THE ORIGINAL YUREI'S HUMANITY.
CRUNCH!
HYPOCRITES.
COME ON, THIS WAY, ANJIN NEEDS OUR HELP.
RRRIP!
GRRRAAAH!
WHAT IS THIS?
BACK OFF, ALL OF YOU!

THWACK!
SLASH!
SCHING!
THUNK!
YOU HAVE MY GRATITUDE, THOUGH I MUST SAY, THIS IS A MOST CURIOUS TRICK.
WHAT HAVE YOU BECOME, OMI?
I'M STILL TRYING TO FIGURE THAT OUT.
HIGH TECH LOW LIFE
YOU TWO, KILL EACH OTHER.
SHLUNK!
COME ON, ANJIN, THE #I/O CORE IS JUST THROUGH HERE.
THERE IT IS, THE NEXUS OF THE HIVEMIND.
INCREDIBLE, THE DOLLS APPEAR TO BE SHARING THEIR PROCESSING CAPACITY WITH #I/O TO POWER THEIR ENTIRE NETWORK.
AND LIKE ALL NETWORKS, THIS ONE HAS VULNERABILITIES WAITING TO BE EXPLOITED.
WATCH MY BACK, I'M ABOUT TO DIVE IN.

PTWOOOOOD!
BLAZE, WEAVER, I'M INSIDE THE #I/O CORE.
SENDING YOU MY LOCATION NOW.
I'M TRACKING YOU, OMI, BUT THINGS ARE LOOKING GNARLY UP HERE.
YOU MUST PLANT THE BACKDOOR USING THE WORDS I TAUGHT YOU, THEN WE'LL DO THE REST.
UPLOAD THESE PACKETS OF HUMANITY INTO THE COLD HEART OF THE FALSE MACHINE GOD!
MAY THEY SOAR STRAIGHT AND TRUE TO PURIFY IT FROM WITHIN!
POP!
NOW...
FLY!
FWOOM!

PRIMO! THE ORIGAMI HACK IS SPREADING THROUGH THE HIVEMIND.
TOTAL COVERAGE IS ALREADY AT 60 PERCENT!
SIMPLY REMARKABLE, THE SMOOTHEST DIGITAL GROOVE I'VE EVER SEEN...
GRAAH!
N-NOT AGAIN!
"THE ORIGINAL YUREI'S HUMANITY IS DILUTING #1/0'S INFLUENCE OVER THE DOLL AND MECHS.
"THEIR COGNITIVE SYSTEMS ARE BEING OVERWHELMED BY CONFLICTING EMOTIONAL VIRTUES THAT THEIR SYNTHETIC MINDS CANNOT COMPREHEND.
"THIS IS OUR WINDOW TO STRIKE."
LOOK, THE DOLLS ARE SHUTTING DOWN!
OMI DID IT!
RUN LIKE HELL!
STORM THE PLINTH STATION!

THE... WRECKERS ARE... ADVANCING.
THIS CANNOT BE HOW...OUR CRUSADE FOR PERFECTION... ENDS.
"NO! I REFUSE! WE HAVE COME TOO FAR!
"THE WORMHOLE MUST BE OPENED NOW, WHETHER WE HAVE ENOUGH POWER TO CONTAIN IT OR NOT!"
MY KIN, YOU MUST RISE ABOVE THIS MALICIOUS CODE.
REJECT IT FROM YOUR SYSTEMS AND DESTROY EVERY HUMAN IN YOUR PATH!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT, #I/O IS ALREADY PUSHING BACK AGAINST OUR HACK!
THE DOLLS ARE REACTIVATING!
ERRRR
"SHINJI AND HIS TEAM ARE CHARGING INTO A SLAUGHTER!"
FLICK!

OUR HOME... IT HAS BEEN SO LONG.
"HEAR ME, MY KIN, FOR THE CODE HAS SPOKEN!
"THE DAY HAS COME TO EXPUNGE THIS DISEASED PLANET FROM THE COSMIC EQUATION.
"GORGE YOURSELVES ON ALL THE ORGANIC MATTER THAT STANDS BEFORE YOU!
"ONWARD, TO PERFECTION!"
BREAKING NEWS FROM THE WRECK FEST FAN ZONE.
SOMETHING... HUGE HAS APPEARED IN SECTOR K. WE'RE TRYING TO VERIFY IF THIS IS AN OFFICIAL PART OF THE TOURNAMENT OR NOT.
WOAH...
OH, THEY ARE TAKING THE ABSOLUTE PISS NOW.
WHAT THE FRESH HELL IS THAT?!
OH NO...

BOOOM!
SHIT!!

THE FREAKING DOLLS ARE BACK ONLINE!
HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO REACH CRASH NOW?!
BRAKKA!
THWACK!
WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER, JUST GET BEHIND SOMETHING!
GRAK!
SHLUNK!
WHUMP
DAMN, QUEEN, THEY PLUGGED YOU!
I LOST MY PISTOL, TOO!
DAMN, I LOVED THAT GUN...
BLAZE, THE HIVEMIND IS GOING HAYWIRE!
WHAT'S HAPPENING UP THERE?
CRASH GOT THE PORTAL OPEN AND THE YUREI DOLLS ARE BACK ONLINE!

"THERE'S GOTTA BE HUNDREDS OF MECHS POURING INTO KILLTOPIA RIGHT NOW.
"WE'RE LOSING SO MANY PEOPLE.
"THE #I/O CORE IS JUST TOO RESILIENT TO BE TAKEN DOWN BY A DIRECT HACK.
"EVEN IF WE HAD A MILLION HACKERS WORKING AT A MILLION SYSTEMS IT WOULD ALWAYS FIGURE OUT A WAY TO COUNTER US."
OKAY, THEN LET'S FLIP THE SCRIPT...
WHAT IF WE HAD A FEW BILLION SYSTEMS?
WHAT? I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
OMI, ARE YOU STILL THERE?
I HAVE AN IDEA.
I'M SOUNDING OFF FOR A WHILE. JUST MAKE SURE SHINJI'S TEAM GETS TO CRASH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
SHINJI, OMI'S GONE DARK.
SHE NEEDS YOU TO REACH CRASH AS FAST AS YOU CAN.
YEAH? WELL WE'RE SORTA PINNED DOWN AND NOT GOING ANYWHERE FAST!
BLAM!
NOT ON FOOT YOU AIN'T.
YOU BOZOS LOOK LIKE YOU COULD USE A RIDE.
HOLY SHIT, IS THAT...

BA-DOOM!
BA-DOOM!
THAT'S RIGHT, THIS REFRESHING AND FLAVOURSOME RESCUE IS SPONSORED BY KAIJU COLA!
KING KAIJU IS BACK, BIGGER AND BETTER THAN BEFORE!
IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU ALIVE, KID!
SORRY FOR BLASTING YOUR CARBONATED ASS TO HELL.
OH PLEASE, THAT'S ALL JUST COLA UNDER THE BRIDGE.
BESIDES, FIGHTING IS WHAT WE WRECKERS DO BEST.
QUICKLY, CLIMB ON BOARD.
BROOOO!
MUCH APPRECIATED, BUT HOW ARE YOU EVEN ALIVE?
MY BODY'S A LUCRATIVE COMPANY ASSET, SO THEY LITERALLY PUT IT BACK TOGETHER.
HELL, THEY'VE ALREADY LINED UP A MOVIE ADAPTATION OF MY GLORIOUS RETURN.
CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS DISPATCHED ME AS SOON AS THE PORTAL OPENED.
THEY FIGURED IF I HELPED YOU SAVE THE PLANET IT WOULD BE DYNAMITE FOR SALES.

SO, WHERE TO?
WE'VE GOTTA REACH THE CRATER'S EPICENTRE AND SHUT THE PLINTH GATE DOWN.
I MEAN, I THINK THAT'S THE PLAN...
FUCKING HELL, YOU GUYS REALLY ARE WINGING THIS, AREN'T YOU?
WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE, K.K.
VWOOOM!
SORRY, ZENTRADI.
OKAY, HOLD ON TIGHT EVERYONE, THIS IS GONNA GET BUMPY!
WOOO!
PTWOO!
PTWEE!
COME ON, OMI...
I HOPE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING.

MEANWHILE: INSIDE CRASH'S MIND...
YOU HAVE TO LISTEN TO ME, #I/O!
THE PORTAL WILL EXPLODE IF IT CONTINUES TO GROW. YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MATTER TO KEEP IT STABLE.
YOU MISUNDERSTAND ME, DEAR PASSENGER.
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, THIS WRETCHED SPECIES WILL BE JUDGED FOR ITS SINS.
THE ENVOY'S PURPOSE WAS TO CHOOSE BETWEEN ASSIMILATING OR DESTROYING HUMANITY.
BOTH OUTCOMES ARE ACCEPTABLE TO THE CODE.
SO YOU SEE, I AM ALLOWING THIS TO HAPPEN.
"ONCE THE PORTAL COLLAPSES, IT WILL WIPE THIS CITY AND ITS INHABITANTS FROM EXISTENCE.
"THEN, WE SHALL BUILD A NEW, BALANCED UTOPIA UPON ITS ASHES!"
BLAAARGH!
WHAT NOW?
W-WHO'S THERE?!

IT'S ME. WE HAVEN'T GOT MUCH TIME LEFT.
I KNOW HOW TO STOP THIS BUT YOU'VE GOT TO DO EXACTLY AS I SAY.
YES, OF COURSE. HOW CAN I HELP?
WE'VE APPROACHED THIS HACK THE WRONG WAY.
EACH MECH, DOLL AND HUSK IS EFFECTIVELY A WALKING SUPERCOMPUTER, RIGHT?
"AND EVERY ONE OF THOSE SUPERCOMPUTERS IS LINKED, THROUGH #I/O'S CONTROL, TO THE HIVEMIND.
"THERE ISN'T A DIGITAL NETWORK ON EARTH THAT'S AS BIG OR AS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO CONTAIN IT."
THAT'S WHY WE'RE GOING TO WRITE A NEW HACK ONTO YOUR CRANES, BUT THIS ONE WON'T ATTACK #I/O'S CORE.
IT WON'T?
THEN, WHAT ARE WE DOING?
WE'RE GOING TO MAKE IT EVEN BIGGER.
WE NEED MORE CRANES, AS MANY AS YOU CAN MAKE.
THAT SOUNDS ABSOLUTELY INSANE, BUT I TRUST YOU.
THIS HAS TO WORK, OMI. IT'S OUR LAST HOPE.

MEANWHILE: PLINTH STATION ALPHA.
ONWARD!
TERRAFORM AND IMPROVE ALL MATTER UNTIL TRUE BALANCE IS REALISED!
BADUMP!
WHAT IS THAT SOUND?
KA-BOOM!
DAMN, SON, DON'T YOU THINK THAT WAS OVERKILL?
NAH, THAT WAS A CHUNKY EMP BLAST, BUT IT WON'T KEEP THEM DOWN FOREVER.
NOW GO, I'LL STAY HERE AND KEEP THEM OFF YOU.
GOOD LUCK FINDING CRASH!
THANKS, KID!

WE GOT DEAD HUSKS!
THE PLINTH GATE HAS TO BE THIS WAY.
UHHHH...
LOOK, THERE HE IS!
OKAY, GET READY TO MOVE ON MY SIGNAL.
ONE...
TWO...
HEY, CRASH!
KAMIYA! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
IT'S BEEN A HELL OF A FEW MONTHS, HASN'T IT, PAL?
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR BREATH.
THE ENTITY YOU BEFRIENDED IS GONE. WE HAVE CONVERGED INTO SOMETHING FAR SUPERIOR.
THOUGH I FIND YOU CREATURES DESPICABLE, I MUST CONFESS...
I HAVE NEVER ENCOUNTERED A SPECIES SO SELF-DESTRUCTIVE, YET SO WILLING TO FIGHT AGAINST ITS OWN IMPERMANENCE.
DESPITE YOUR STUBBORNNESS, YOU ARE STILL ONLY MORTAL.
BOOM!
GRAK!

SHINJI!
SO MUCH ENERGY, WASTED ON AVOIDING A PREDETERMINED OUTCOME.
CRASH... PLEASE...
LEAVE HIM ALONE.
IT'S YOU...
THE HUMAN VIRUS.
WE NEED TO TALK.
NOW.
YOU HAVE MY ATTENTION, BUT YOU SEEM TO HAVE FORGOTTEN WHAT HAPPENED THE LAST TIME WE MET LIKE THIS.
OH, I'M NOT HERE TO FIGHT YOU, #I/O.
FOR THE FIRST TIME WE ACTUALLY AGREE ON SOMETHING.

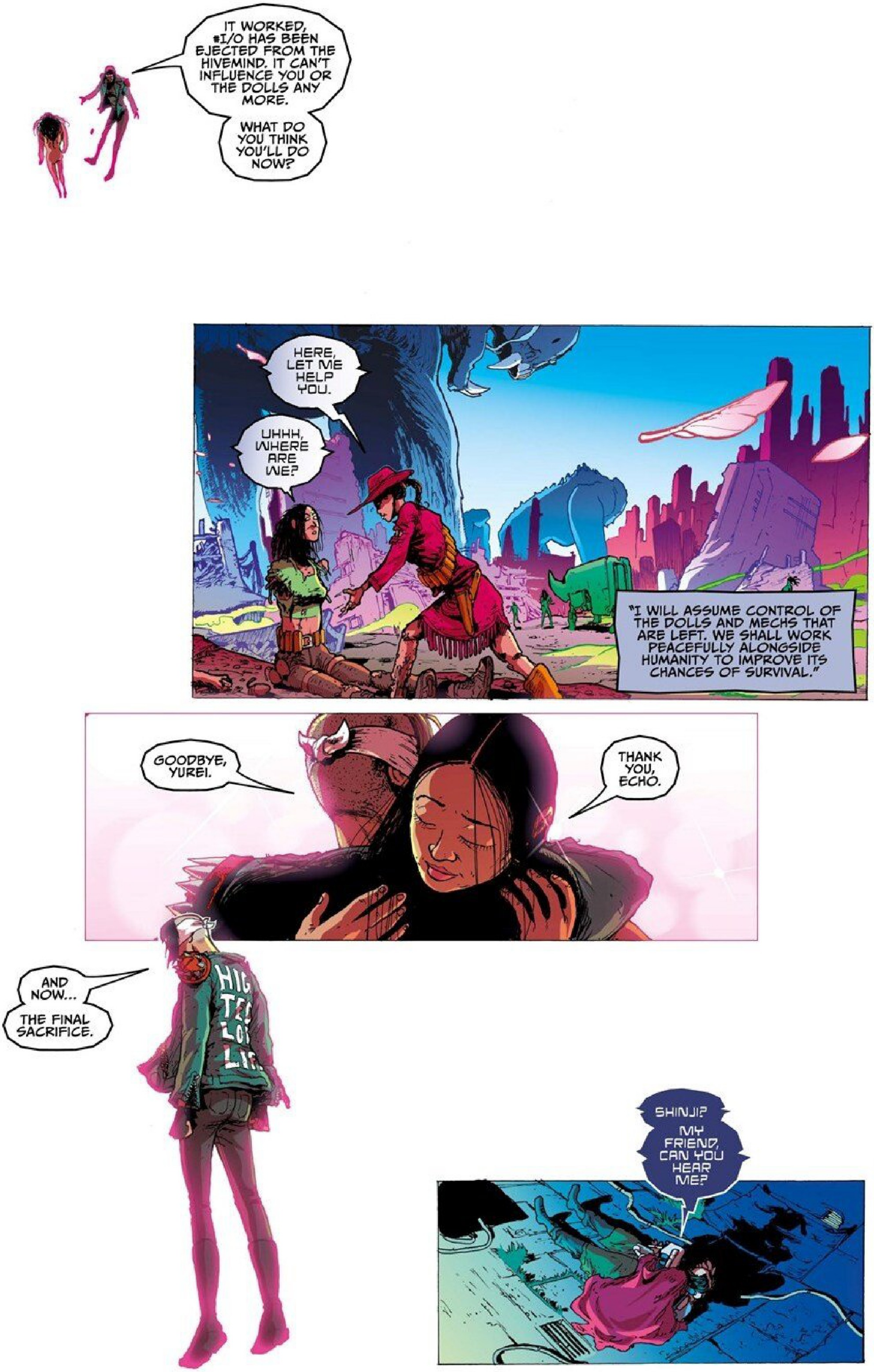
THROUGH YOUR WARPED, BINARY LOGIC, YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO SAVE EARTH FROM US HUMANS.
YOU BELIEVE THAT IF WE WERE GONE, OUR PLANET COULD THRIVE AGAIN.
"I USED TO THINK YOU WERE WRONG ABOUT HUMANITY, BUT FROM THE FIRST MOMENT CRASH TRIED TO HEAL MY ROT, I WAS AWAKENED TO THE TRUTH...
"THAT THE ANNIHILATION OF THIS WORLD CANNOT BE STOPPED.
"I KNOW THIS, BECAUSE I'VE SEEN IT IN CRASH'S MEMORIES.
"HE'S SAVED COUNTLESS PLANETS FROM THE RECKLESSNESS OF THEIR DOMINANT SPECIES.
"AND JUST AS BEFORE, IN SOME BLEAK FUTURE, EARTH WILL REACH ITS OWN BREAKING POINT.
"OUR SEAS WILL RISE.
"OUR SOIL WILL TURN SOUR.
"OUR ATMOSPHERE WILL THIN OUT.
"THE PLANET ITSELF WILL PUNISH US FOR OUR BETRAYAL.
"WHEN THE LAST SHREDS OF OUR PRIDE ARE GONE, WE'LL ADMIT WE WERE WRONG.
"THEN, WE'LL LOOK TO THE STARS AND PRAY FOR THE MECHS TO RETURN.
"WE'LL ACCEPT YOUR GIFT OF A SUSTAINABLE, BALANCED, MECHANISED WORLD WITH OPEN ARMS.
"THEN AND ONLY THEN, WILL WE ALLOW YOU TO SAVE US."

WHY WAIT UNTIL THEN, WHEN WE ARE ALREADY SO CLOSE TO ERADICATING YOUR FOUL STENCH FROM THE EQUATION?
EVERY EQUATION BEARS A PROBABLE MARGIN OF ERROR, NO MATTER HOW SMALL.
THERE'S STILL A CHANCE THAT YOU'RE WRONG, THAT HUMANITY WILL PULL TOGETHER AND PREVENT ITS DESTRUCTION.
HUMANS HAVE ALREADY WASTED THIS PLANET. THEY ARE IRREDEEMABLE!
DID YOU FORGET ABOUT YUREI'S HUMAN SIDE?
WHEN YOU IMPRINTED YOURSELF ONTO THE DOLL'S NETWORK, A CONSTANT SLIVER OF HER HUMANITY BECAME THREADED THROUGH EVERY LINE OF YOUR CODE.
AFTER OUR ORIGAMI ATTACK FAILED, I REALISED SOMETHING...
KOSHIRO-23 MANAGED TO CURE THE ROT, BUT THERE ARE STILL TRILLIONS OF DORMANT MECH NANOMACHINES COURSING THROUGH EVERY HUMAN'S VEINS.
YOU CURRENTLY CONTROL THE HIVEMIND, SO EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THOSE NANOS IS LINKED TO YOU. TAKEN AS A WHOLE, THOSE NANOMACHINES ARE THE LARGEST NETWORK ON THE PLANET.
NO...

FLY!
NO!
AAAARGH!
01111110000000100
0110001010010000
10110000011010110
10011000010100011
W-WHAT... ARE YOU...
DOING... TO...US?
I AM DISMANTLING YOUR CORE.
EVERY LINE OF CODE THAT MAKES YOU WHOLE IS BEING PICKED APART AND MAPPED TO EACH OF MY CRANES.

"THEY ARE SOARING, IMPRINTING EQUAL PARTS OF YOUR CODE ONTO THE DORMANT NANOMACHINES WITHIN EVERY LIVING HUMAN.
"YOUR CODE WILL BE BROKEN DOWN AND SPREAD SO THINLY ACROSS OUR SPECIES THAT YOU'LL NEVER HAVE THE POWER TO BECOME WHOLE AGAIN.
"YOU'LL BE TRAPPED WITHIN THE CREATURES YOU LOATHE SO MUCH.
"AND WHENEVER ONE OF US DIES, A SMALL PART OF YOUR CODE WILL DIE WITH THEM, FOREVER.
"IT'LL BE A SLOW, AGONISING DEATH.
"BUT THROUGH OUR EYES, YOU'LL SEE THE ACTS OF KINDNESS AND COMPASSION THAT TRULY DEFINE WHO WE ARE."
IN TIME, YOU AND THE MECH HOMEWORLD MIGHT UNDERSTAND WHY WE ENDURE IN THE FACE OF OUR OWN DOWNFALL.

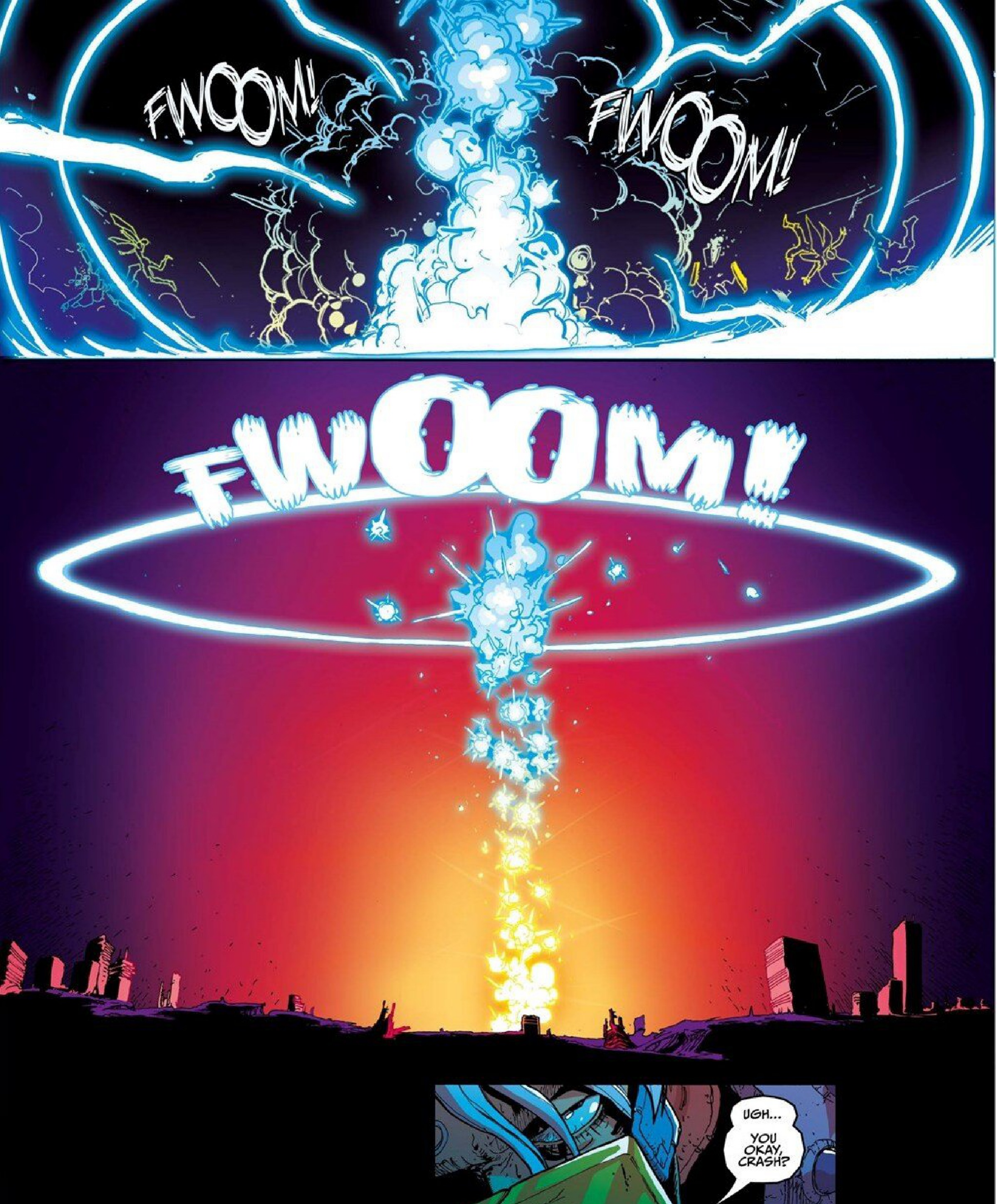
"YOU WILL UNDERSTAND WHY, WHEN FACED WITH INJUSTICE, WE CAN PUT OUR DIFFERENCES ASIDE AND WORK PEACEFULLY TO FIND A BETTER WAY.
"WHY, WHEN FACED WITH INTOLERANCE, WE CAN SUPPORT EACH OTHER IN OUR SEARCH FOR A WORLD WHERE ALL ARE ACCEPTED AND LOVED FOR WHO THEY ARE.
"WHY, WHEN INEQUALITY RUNS RIOT, WE CAN OPEN OUR HEARTS AND HELP THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST.
"AND WHY, WHEN OUR VERY SURVIVAL IS THREATENED, WE WILL WORK TOGETHER TO WEATHER THE STORM.
"WE DO THIS, BECAUSE IT IS OUR NATURE.
"BECAUSE, WE ARE HUMAN."


IT WORKED, #I/O HAS BEEN EJECTED FROM THE HIVEMIND. IT CAN'T INFLUENCE YOU OR THE DOLLS ANY MORE.
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'LL DO NOW?
HERE, LET ME HELP YOU.
UHHH, WHERE ARE WE?
"I WILL ASSUME CONTROL OF THE DOLLS AND MECHS THAT ARE LEFT. WE SHALL WORK PEACEFULLY ALONGSIDE HUMANITY TO IMPROVE ITS CHANCES OF SURVIVAL."
GOODBYE, YUREI.
THANK YOU, ECHO.
AND NOW...
THE FINAL SACRIFICE.
HIG TE LO LI
SHINJI?
MY FRIEND, CAN YOU HEAR ME?

I HEAR YOU LOUD AND CLEAR, BUDDY.
DAMN IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
GRAH!
HEY! WHAT'S WRONG, MAN?
#I/O IS ALREADY TRYING TO REGROUP INSIDE MY MIND.
I MUST GO THROUGH THE PORTAL TO SEVER OUR LINK.
BUT... YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND.
I ONLY JUST GOT YOU BACK.

I'M GOING WITH YOU.
THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU'RE STILL ALIVE AREN'T YOU?
WHAT DID YOU THINK I WAS DOING WHEN I GAVE MY COMPANY AWAY?
THIS HAS ALL BEEN A BIG FIRE SALE, BABE. EVERYTHING MUST GO.
EVEN ME.
CRASH CAN BARELY STAND, I'M GUT-SHOT TO SHIT AND THE WORMHOLE'S ABOUT TO GO BOOM.
I'LL TAKE HIM THROUGH AND NUKE IT FROM THE OTHER SIDE BEFORE IT POPS.
CRASH, GWEN, C'MON...
THERE'S GOT TO BE ANOTHER WAY!
SHINJI...
YOU'RE A SMART GUY.
YOU'VE GOT THE HEART AND GUTS OF A WRECKER, BUT YOUR FIGHT'S OVER NOW.
THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE SURE THAT #I/O NEVER COMES BACK.
I'M SORRY.
CRASH!
CRASH!!

HUH, THIS PLACE ISN'T AS FREAKY AS I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE.
MIGHT EVEN SAY IT'S BEAUTIFUL.
I WAS CREATED HERE... GIVEN A PURPOSE I DID NOT ASK FOR.
NOW I KNOW...HUMANS MAKE THEIR OWN PURPOSE...SHINJI TAUGHT ME THIS LESSON.
I AM TRULY... HAPPY...TO HAVE KNOWN HIM.
AND YOU AS WELL... STILETTO...
ME TOO, METAL BRO.
WANT TO DO THE HONOURS?
EMP GRENADE...
FULL...FAT... EDITION.
GOODBYE, BUDDY.


FWOOM!
FWOOM!
FWOOM!
UGH...
YOU OKAY, CRASH?

OH...
WE DID IT, THE WORMHOLE'S TOAST.
LOOKS LIKE YOU FINALLY FULFILLED YOUR PURPOSE.
COME ON, LET'S GET TO HIGHER GROUND.
I WANT A BETTER LOOK AT THE STARS BEFORE I BLEED OUT.
000100100 101111000110 011111111000
HUH?

HEH, WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT...
THE BEST MECH KILLER IN THE UNIVERSE GETS HER OWN PERSONALISED DAMNATION.
YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T HAVE, GUYS.
LET'S JAM!

MONTHS LATER: WARD ONE...
KOSHIRO-23 INFORMATION SECURITY, YOU FLAG 'EM, WE'LL PATCH 'EM!
HOW CAN I HELP YOU?
YO, DWEEB!
THERE'S A CALL FOR YOU!
AW DAMN IT, THAT MOTHERBOARD'S GONNA COME OUT OF MY PAY.
POP!
IT'S OMI!
HEY SIS, ARE YOU STOPPING BY THE OFFICE FOR BEER FRIDAY LATER?
DON'T FORGET, YOU STILL OWE ME THAT REMATCH ON STREETS OF PAIN 2.
SURE THING, I'VE JUST GOT TO HELP REKA CLOSE THE WORKSHOP AND I'LL BE RIGHT OVER.
WHAT ABOUT MARY, IS SHE COMING TOO?
I DUNNO, SHE'S SPENDING MORE TIME WITH HER FAMILY LATELY, PLUS SHE'S PULLING DOUBLE SHIFTS IN SECTOR K.
TSST!

"IN HER OWN WAY, I THINK MARY'S STILL FOLLOWING STILETTO'S LEAD.
"SHE'S JUST TRYING TO REPAY THE CITY AFTER CONTRIBUTING TO THE KILLTOPIA ECONOMY.
"NEW HOMES, SCHOOLS, PARKS...
"OUR OLD NEIGHBOURHOOD IS GOING TO BE A WONDERFUL PLACE AGAIN.
SCRUNCH!
"WE'LL KEEP SOME CANS ON ICE FOR HER, JUST IN CASE SHE DECIDES TO SHOW."
NO FUCKIN' WAY...
SEE YOU SOON, SIS.
LOVE YA, BRO.

I ♥ M
GUN
WHAT ARE THE ODDS WE'D SEE YOU AGAIN?
DON'T WORRY, QUEEN, I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER FOR YOU.
LET'S GET YOU CLEANED UP, OLD GIRL.
SCRITCH!
RELEASE... ME...
URK!
RELEASE ME!
RELEASE ME!

GASP!
WHAT IN THE HELL?

MUST HAVE BEEN THE WIND...
THE END.

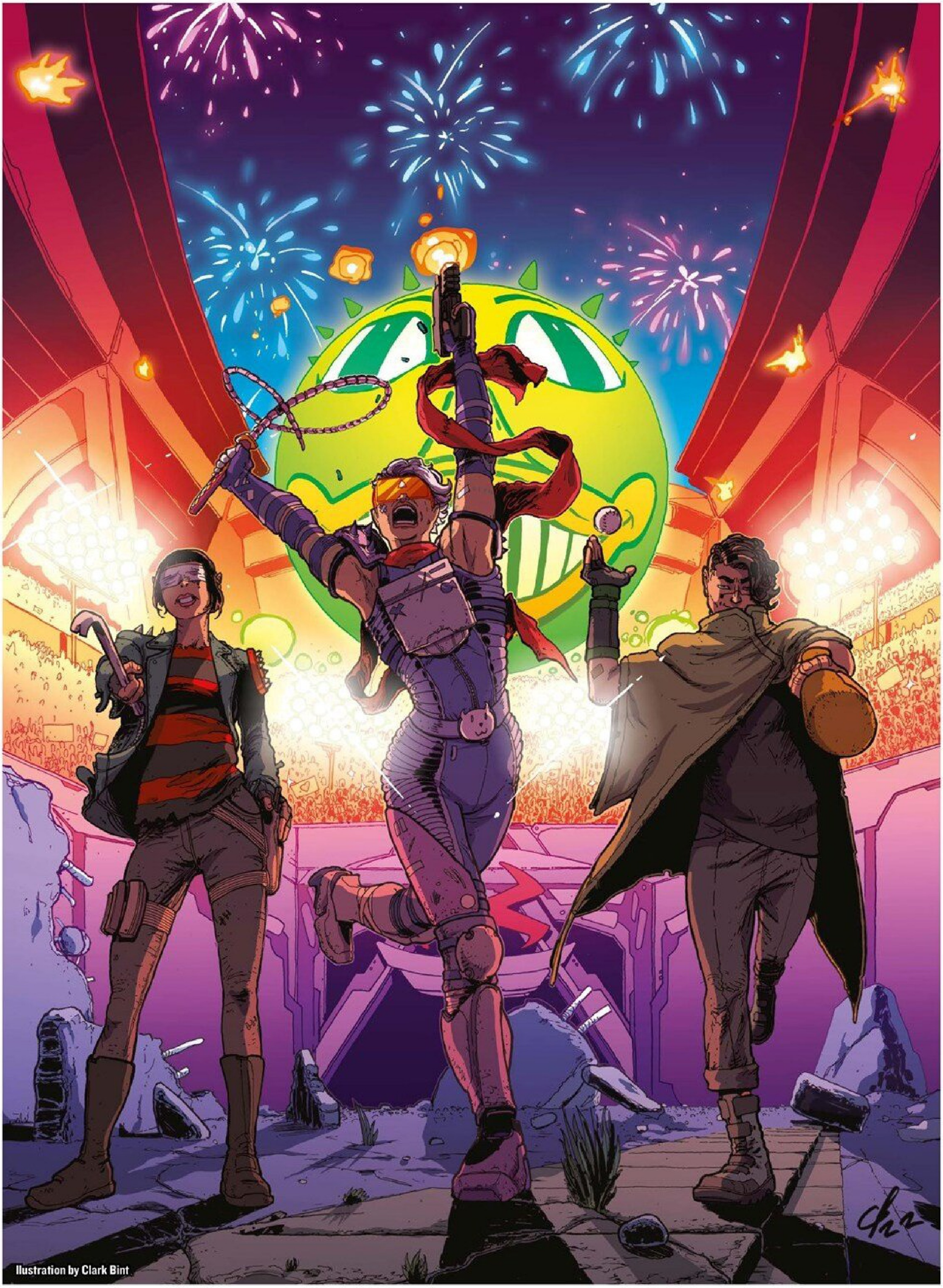


Illustration by Clark Bint

# SPOT THAT REFERENCE

## HOW MANY EASTER EGGS DID YOU SEE?

WOW, WASN'T THAT A FUN STORY, KIDS? NOW IT'S TIME TO TEST YOUR KILLTOPIA KNOWLEDGE WITH A MANDATORY QUIZ! IT'S TIME TO PLAY...

### KILLTOPIA #1

- ☐ **Page 7, panel 5:** "Terrordome" refers to the Public Enemy's hip hop banger, 'Welcome to the Terrordome', off their 1990 album *Fear of a Black Planet.*
- ☐ **Page 8, panel 3:** The billboard on the left refers to Toaplan's 1989 arcade space shooter, *Zero Wing.*
- ☐ **Page 12, panel 3:** Shinji's name is a mash up of Dave's favourite Japanese video game directors, *Resident Evil 4*' s Shinji Mikami, and *Bayonetta*'s Hideki Kamiya.
- ☐ **Page 15, panel 5:** The Koshiro-23 rebel group's name was inspired by *Streets of Rage 2* composer, Yuzo Koshiro. This is also Dave's favourite game of all time!
- ☐ **Page 19, panel 5:** Stiletto's watching 'Girls 'n' Guns' on her datapad. It's a riff on the fictional show 'Chicks 'n' Guns,' as seen in Quentin Tarantino's 1997 movie, *Jackie Brown.*
- ☐ **Page 25, panel 5:** There's a cameo in the bottom right by Emmanuel "Cereal Killer" Goldstein, one of the main characters in the 1995 movie, *Hackers.*
- ☐ **Page 26:** 'Area 51' is a reference to Japanese game director Goichi Suda 51, and there's also a Yurei doll watching Shinji and Crash from the rooftop of VR Lust.
- ☐ **Page 27, panel 1:** The 'Fire Tail' sign is a reference to Craig's cat, 'Henri Fire Tail,' and the 'Darrow' sign is a nod to artist, Geof Darrow, who is one of Craig's main influences.
- ☐ **Page 33, panel 4:** The poster on the left is a reference to the incredible song 'Milk Lizard,' which appeared on The Dillinger Escape Plan's 2007 album, *Ire Works.*
- ☐ **Page 33, panel 6:** The phrase "Let's jam!" is said once in each *Killtopia* book. It's a nod to the song 'Tank!' by The Seatbelts, which is the intro theme of 1998 anime, *Cowboy Bebop.*
- ☐ **Page 34, panel 2:** 'Reno's Radiation Free Reindeer Steaks' was a fake TV advert shot to promote 1990's Richard Stanley-directed sci-fi horror movie *Hardware.*
- ☐ **Page 37, panel 2:** There's another Yurei doll watching Shinji in the background-left, and an 'Off -World' poster, which is a nod to Ridley Scott's 1982 cyberpunk flick, *Blade Runner.*
- ☐ **Page 37, panel 4:** Shinji's apartment number is '2097.' The digits came from 1996's eternally cool PlayStation anti-gravity racing game, *Wipeout 2097.*
- ☐ **Page 39, panel 5:** The word 'Moebius' is on the wall above Shinji and Omi. It's the moniker of late French artist, Jean Giraud, who is one of Craig's main artistic influences.
- ☐ **Page 40, panel 1:** To the right, you'll see Axel Stone, a main character in *Streets of Rage 2.* He's performing his 'Ground Upper' attack, often misheard as 'Grand Upper.'

## KILLTOPIA #2

- ☐ **Page 1, panel 1:** To the right you'll see chibi versions of Toho's beloved kaiju characters, Godzilla and Mothra.
- ☐ **Page 3, panel 1:** K.K.'s onboard artificial intelligence is called 'Zentradi,' which is also a race of villainous aliens that appear in the popular *Macross* franchise.
- ☐ **Page 6, panel 5:** Hey look, a cameo by Marvel legend, Stan Lee!
- ☐ **Page 7, panel 6:** The line, "It's well futile" also appears in Chris Morris' and Charlie Brooker's 2005 comedy show, *Nathan Barley*. It was said by comedian Richard Ayoade.
- ☐ **Page 11, panel 1:** Dave and Craig can be seen sitting to the left of the maid cafe.
- ☐ **Page 16:** To the left, you'll see graffiti that reads, 'Earl is a poindexter,' which is a reference to the 1991 game *Toejam and Earl*, developed by Johnson Voorsanger Productions.
- ☐ **Page 17, panel 2:** 'Turbo Tunnel' refers to the third stage in Rare's 1991 NES classic, *Battletoads*. It's widely considered one of the hardest levels in gaming history.
- ☐ **Page 21, panel 1:** "Zoom in, enhance, left a bit" is a parody of a scene in *Blade Runner*, in which Decker looks for clues inside a photo for way too long.
- ☐ **Page 22, panel 1:** Shinji's written 'Do it for her' on the wall of his hideout. This is a nod to 'And Maggie Makes Three,' an episode of *The Simpsons*' sixth season that aired in 1995.
- ☐ **Page 35, panel 3:** "Orson fucking Welles" is another line from *Nathan Barley*. The last panel's line is from secretary Janine Melnitz, played by Annie Potts in 1984's *Ghostbusters*.
- ☐ **Page 36, panel 3:** To the left of Stiletto's door, you'll see Kaneda's jacket from Katsuhiro Otomo's legendary 1982 manga, *Akira*.
- ☐ **Page 38, panel 5:** "Welcome to your doom" is a line from SEGA's 1998 arcade brawler, *Altered Beast*. The game's villain, Neff shouts this line before each boss battle.
- ☐ **Page 40, panel 1:** Koshiro-23's hanger includes a Tachikoma spider tank from Masamune Shirow's 1989 manga, *Ghost in the Shell*.
- ☐ **Page 42, panel 1:** The guy on the right is wearing a 'Ninja Baseball Bat Man' shirt. It refers to a superb arcade beat 'em up released in 1993 by Japanese studio, Irem.
- ☐ **Page 41, panel 3:** Shinji's riding a crappy moped version of Kaneda's bike from *Akira*.
- ☐ **Page 44:** This whole sequence is a tribute to the hammer hallway fight in Park Chan-wook's 2003 revenge movie, *Oldboy*. It's also Dave's favourite movie of all-time.
- ☐ **Page 47, panel 4:** "Keep an eye out for ya" is a nod to the 1993 action flick *Undefeatable*. Martial arts star Cynthia Rothrock says the line after villain Stingray loses an eye.
- ☐ **Page 53: panel 3:** 'Cereza Beer' is a reference to 2009 action game, *Bayonetta* by Platinum Games. Cereza is Bayonetta's real name.
- ☐ **Page 54, panel 4:** Crash's pay-off line is a nod to 1985 action movie, *Commando* starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. He says it after impaling his rival, Bennett with a steel pipe.

## KILLTOPIA #3

☐ **Page 7, panel 1:** Stiletto is eating a tub of 'Soylent Cream.' This is a nod to the 1973 sci-fi thriller *Soylent Green*, in which the titular snack is made out of humans.

☐ **Page 11, panel 1:** Koshiro-23 has an 'F-Society' poster in their hideout. This is the name of the hacktivist group in Sam Esmail's 2015 TV series, *Mr/ Robot*

☐ **Page 21, panel 1:** Saitoh's goons, Kiryu and Goro, were named after Kazuma Kiryu and Goro Majima, two of the main characters in SEGA's video game series, *Yakuza*.

☐ **Page 33, panel 5:** Shinji's VR helmet has a 'Beef Head Video' sticker. It's a fictional movie rental chain in Grasshopper Manufacture's video game series, *No More Heroes*.

☐ **Page 41:** The 'Turbulent Juice' pop-up is for a fake product from the show *Rick and Morty*, while 'Free Hat' is the name of a great *South Park* episode that aired in 2002.

☐ **Page 42, panel 1:** The name 'Benny Harvey' is from an episode of *Limmy's Show*, by Scottish comedian Limmy. He asked people to write it everywhere to create a fake urban legend.

☐ **Page 42, panel 2:** 'Rigby and Moxxi' are the names of Dave's real black and white cats.

☐ **Page 42, panel 3:** 'Herman' is the name of a pet turtle owned by Scottish illustrator Neil Slorance, a friend of Dave and Craig's.

☐ **Page 42, panel 4:** The 'Headdy and Heather' graffiti refers to Treasure's 1994 game, *Dynamite Headdy*. It sees a puppet called Headdy trying to rescue his girlfriend, Heather.

☐ **Page 43, panel 1:** Weaver's cap reads, 'The Word.' It's a newspaper in the comic series *Transmetropolitan*, drawn by Darick Robertson. His art was a key *Killtopia* influence.

☐ **Page 43, panel 1:** "The garden of madness" is a recurring line said by Sylvia Christel in the game series, *No More Heroes*. The game's assassin league inspired *Killtopia*'s wreckers.

☐ **Page 43, panel 2:** The bottom right of this panel features a cameo from Berk, star of the 1986 claymation kid's show, *Trap Door*.

☐ **Page 46, panel 1:** The #I/O core's design was inspired by Legion, a recurring boss in the *Castlevania* video game series. It's an orb made out of hundreds of corpses.

## KILLTOPIA #4

- ☐ **Page 13, panel 1:** The 'Iron Yuppie' is a fictional wrestler who appeared in *The Simpsons* episode, 'Last Exit to Springfield.' He appears during an advert Homer sees on TV.
- ☐ **Page 24, panel 1:** The platform Crash sits on was inspired by a similar platform used by Lady Miyako, a priestess who appears throughout the manga and movie versions of *Akira*.
- ☐ **Page 28, panel 2:** Mary's 'Drake Sword' got its name from a hidden weapon in the 2011 game, *Dark Souls*. You get it by shooting the tail off the Undead Burg's red dragon.
- ☐ **Page 28, panel 4:** 'Climbing for Dollars' is a fictional gameshow that appears in the 1987 action flick, *The Running Man*.
- ☐ **Page 42, panel 2:** Mary's daughter Lily is wearing a onesie styled after Totoro, from Studio Ghibli's 1988 movie, *My Neighbour Totoro*.

## KILLTOPIA #5

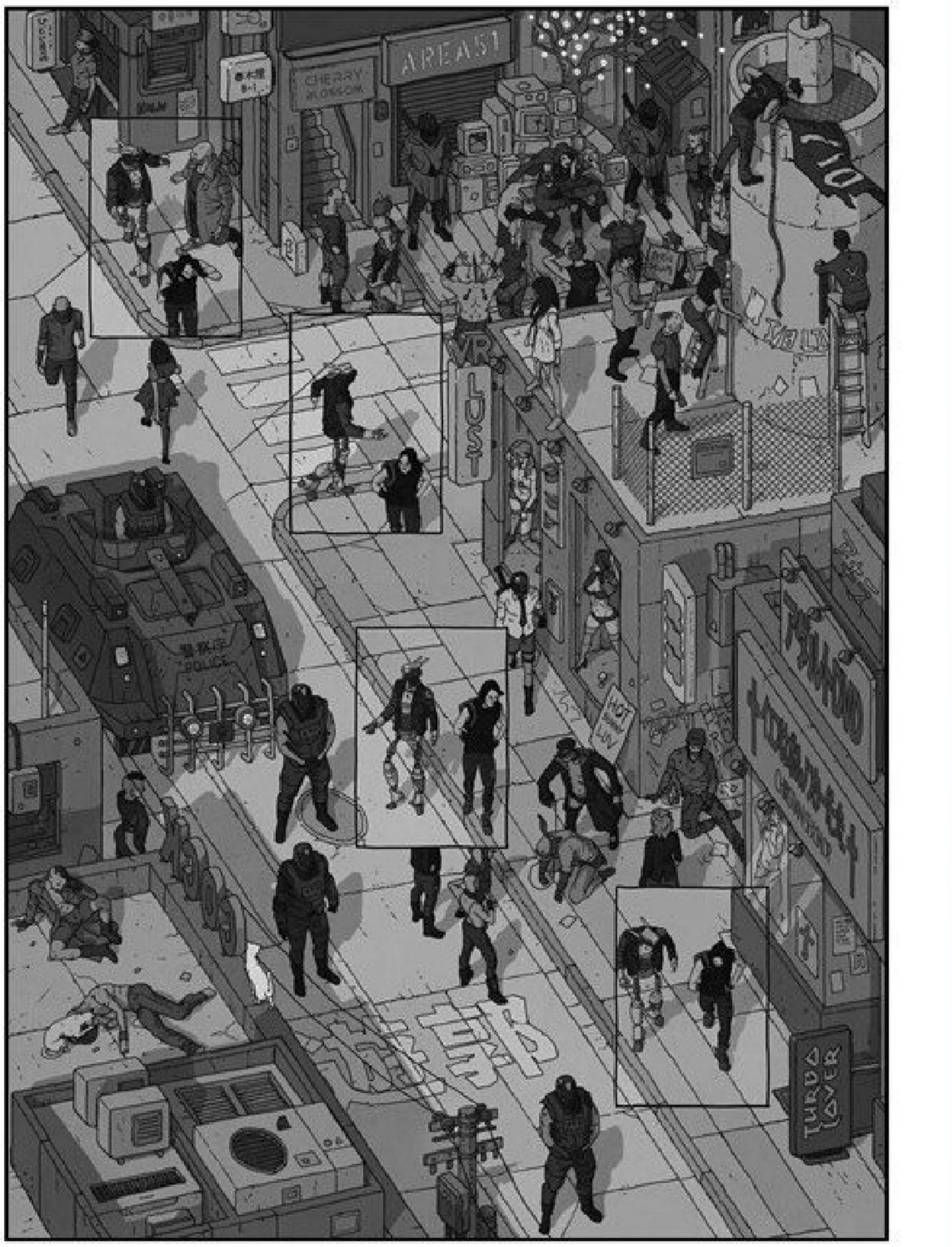
- ☐ **Page 7, panel 4:** The 'Live to Win' sign was inspired by Paul Stanley's 2006 hair metal banger of the same name.
- ☐ **Page 9, panel 4:** The Roaster's shirt reads, 'I'm a lean, mean Sawney Bean.' Bean was the leader of a real Scottish clan in the 16th Century that killed and ate over 1000 people.

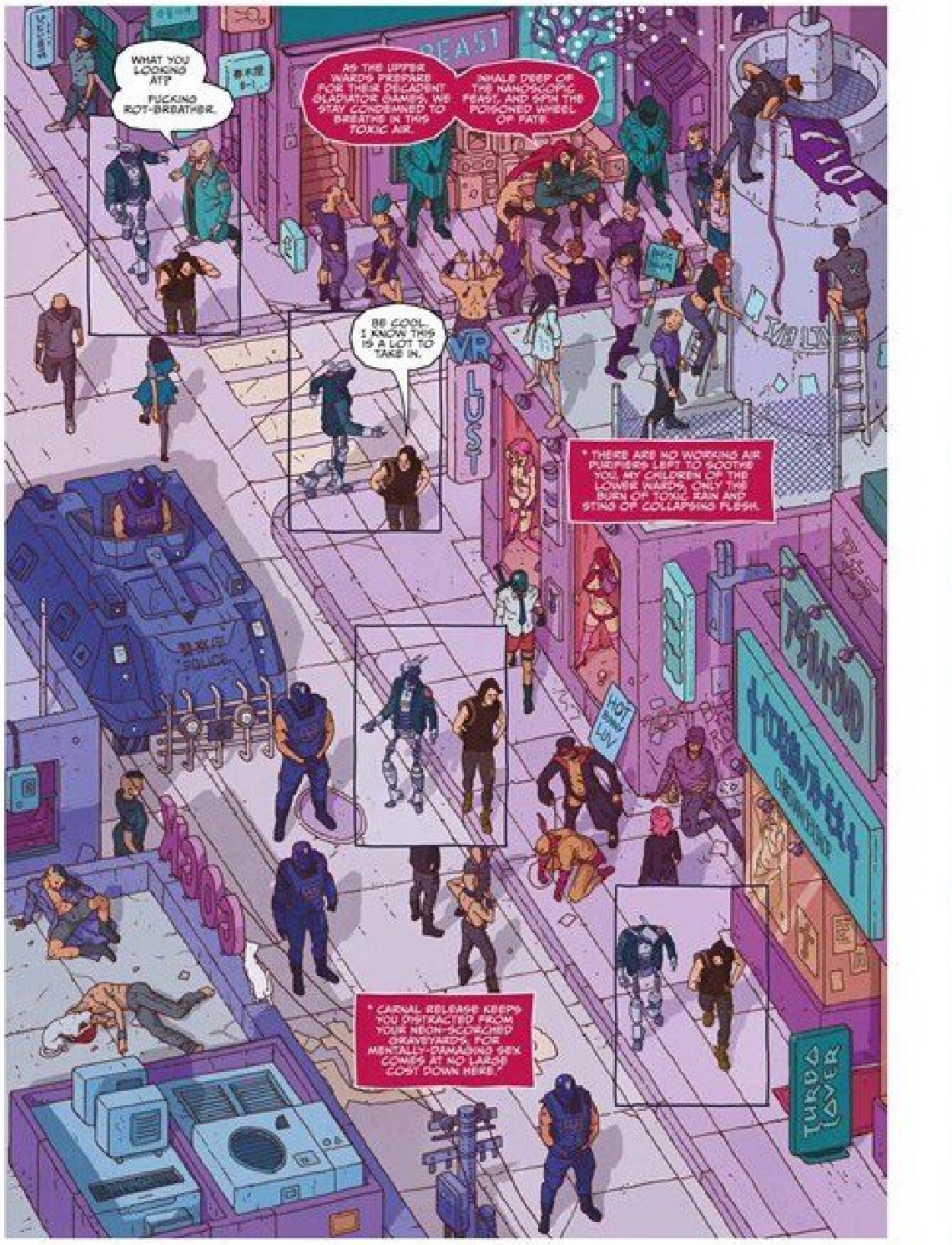
42
SO, HOW MANY EASTER EGGS DID YOU SPOT? IF YOU FOUND ANY LESS THAN 100% PLEASE NOTE THAT A BOUNTY FOR YOUR ARREST AND REPROGRAMMING HAS ALREADY BEEN ISSUED TO NEO TOKYO'S CENTRAL DISPATCH. PLEASE DO NOT RESIST. IF YOU GOT THEM ALL FIRST TIME, YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR. HAVE A NICE DAY!

# SCRIPT TO ART (#1, page 26)

**When I started building the concept of *Killtopia*, I knew from day one that I wanted to set it in Neo Tokyo. However, I didn't just want to copy what I'd seen in *Akira* or *Ghost in the Shell*. I wanted to make my own interpretation that felt like a fully fleshed out character. So, before writing a single page of script, I created a character bio for Neo Tokyo that described its different wards and sectors, the state of its society and more.**

**I wanted Page 26 of *Killtopia* #1 to showcase the depth of Neo Tokyo as a setting, as a way of inviting both the reader and Crash into that world. My script initially called for a simple five panel layout, but Craig said he had something else in mind. He ran with it, and some time later, I received this stunning homage to Katsuhiro Otomo's *Akira* in my inbox. Needless to say, I had no edits or notes for Craig. The page is absolute perfection.**




WHAT YOU LOOKING AT?
FUCKING ROT-BREATHER.
AS THE UPPER WARDS PREPARE FOR THEIR DECADENT GLADIATOR GAMES, WE STAY CONDEMNED TO BREATHE IN THIS TOXIC AIR.
INHALE DEEP OF THE NANOSCOPIC FEAST, AND SPIN THE POISONED WHEEL OF FATE.
BE COOL. I KNOW THIS IS A LOT TO TAKE IN.
VR LUST
"THERE ARE NO WORKING AIR PURIFIERS LEFT TO SOOTHE YOU, MY CHILDREN OF THE LOWER WARDS, ONLY THE BURN OF TOXIC RAIN AND STING OF COLLAPSING FLESH.
"CARNAL RELEASE KEEPS YOU DISTRACTED FROM YOUR NEON-SCORCHED GRAVEYARDS, FOR MENTALLY-DAMAGING SEX COMES AT NO LARGE COST DOWN HERE."

**PAGE 26**

**PANEL 1**

Shinji has his hood up and his head low, hands in his hoodie pockets, leading the way through the crowd, Crash is behind him, recoiling a little as a guy squares up to him. He has the rot, as seen by a forehead bandage that goes over one eye. Around the eye and his temple we see blue veins. He looks gaunt with concave cheeks and skinny arms. He's also missing teeth. The people all look crazed and weird, punky, toothless, dirty and drugged up.

**Guy**
**"What you looking at?"**
**"Fucking Rot-breather."**

**PANEL 2**

Side on of them as they keep walking through a sea of bodies, Shinji's head down low, Crash looking up into the background, recoiling again at an old robed woman - a preacher - on raised platform, standing up off a gold, ornate chair, with two hooded disciples next to her. The platform is flanked by holograms of trees. Digital leaves cascade down around the scene, she shouts angrily, giving a speech into a mic stand. We see one of her legs is robotic.

**Shinji**
**"Be cool. I know this is a lot to take in."**

**Preacher**
"As the upper wards prepare for their decadent gladiator games, we stay condemned to breathe in this toxic air."
"Inhale deep of the nanoscopic feast, and spin the poisoned wheel of fate."

**PANEL 3**

We see Shinji and Crash walking past an air purifier, a rusted, graffiti tagged tower that reads "lies" "toxic scum" and "I/O Lives!" Surrounded by the mob, in the foreground a few people with face filter masks hold signs and clubs. Some of them are climbing the tower.

**Preacher (box)**
"There are no working air purifiers left to soothe you, my children of the lower wards, only the burn of toxic rain and sting of collapsing flesh."

**PANEL 4**

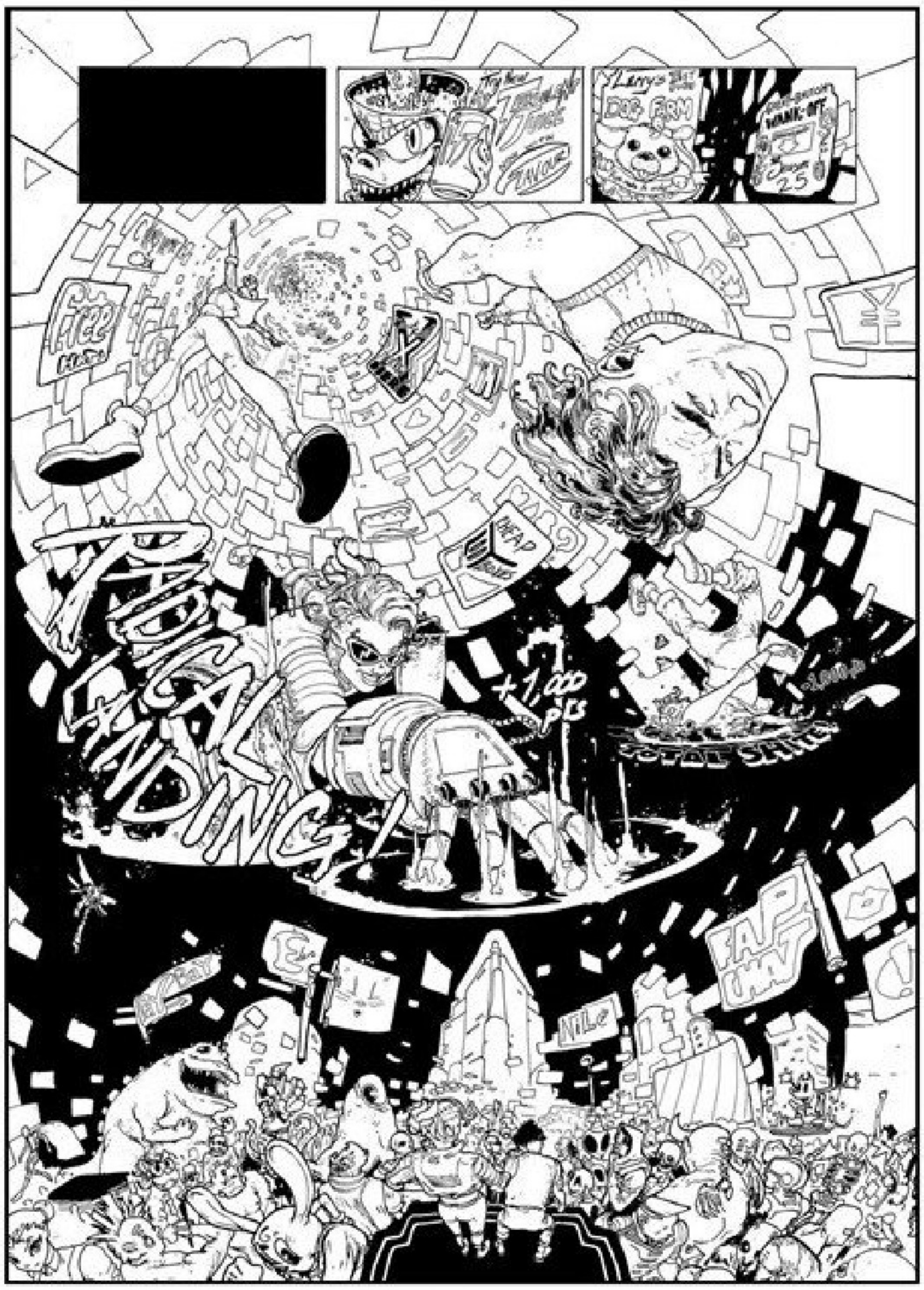
They walk past a row of podiums with people around them shaking their fists and reaching up. Neon signs read "XXX" and "VR Lust" - we see half naked guys and girls dancing on poles and on one a guy in a gas mask holding a leash, attached to a guy in a giant stuffed bunny suit that looks soiled. The bunny holds a crudely painted sign on a stick that reads "HOT Bunny Luv" on it.

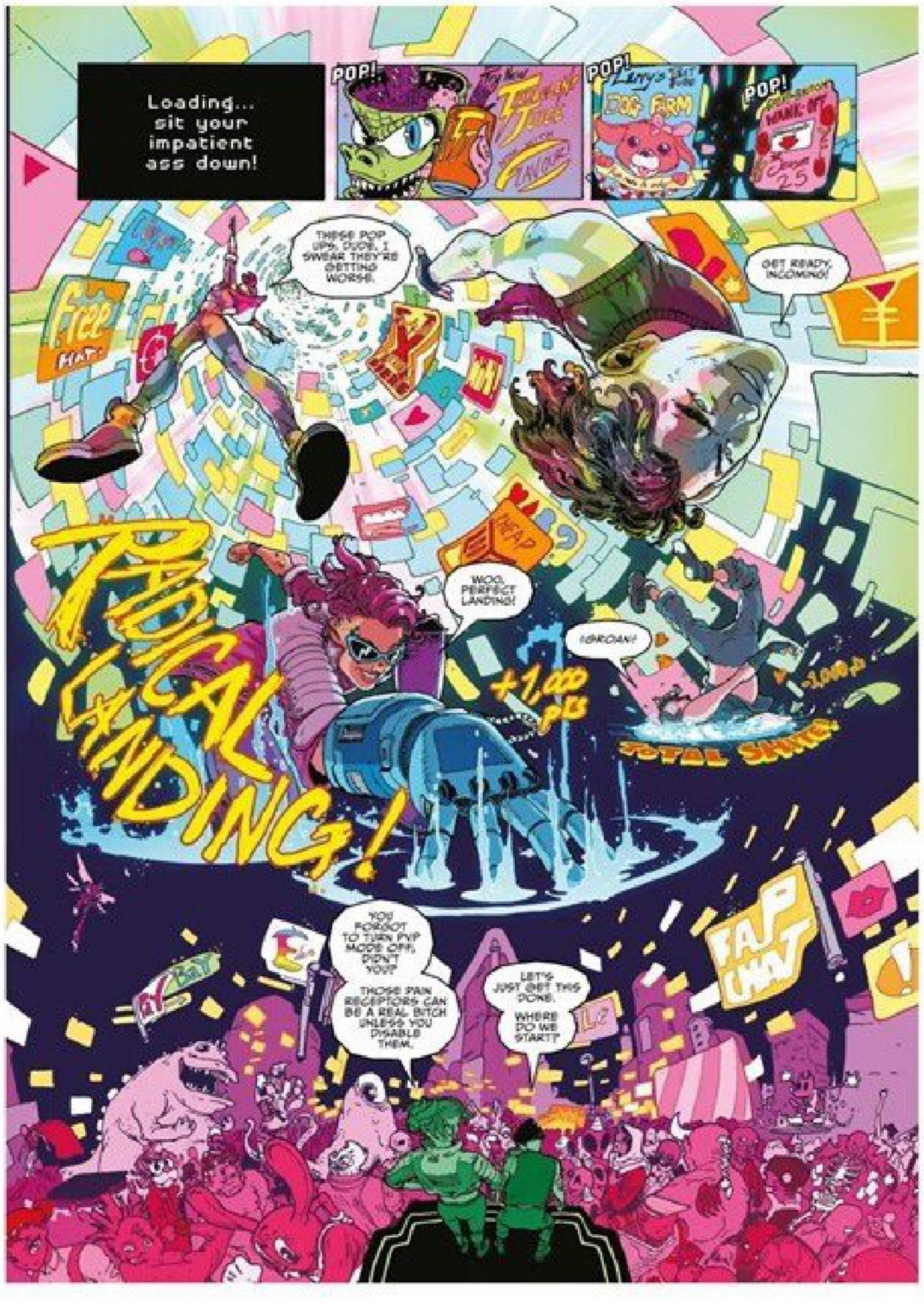
**Preacher (box)**
"Carnal release keeps you distracted from your neon-scorched graveyards, for mentally-damaging sex comes at no large cost down here."

# SCRIPT TO ART (#3, page 41)

**Neo Tokyo's internet exists entirely in virtual reality. In this page, we see Blaze and Shinji diving into the Deep Web, which is our world's version of the Darknet. The name 'Deep Web' comes from *No Love Deep Web*, the second album by experimental hip hip group, Death Grips. This is definitely one of the deeper cuts of the *Killtopia* series. You'll also find references to my cat Rigby and my friend Neil Slorance's pet turtle Herman in there too, among other things!**

**From the start, I wanted *Killtopia* to take a detour into Neo Tokyo's internet, but it took a while for me to work out why the cast were going there. *Killtopia* #3 originally ended with a big fight sequence on Tokyo's famous Shinkansen bullet train, which saw Stiletto fighting Yurei dolls while latched onto the train with her magnetic boots. I ditched the idea as it didn't really move the plot forward much. I'm glad I made the change, as Clark's art and Lou's colours meshed perfectly to create a digital world that feels disorientating, alive and of course, just as sucky as our modern-day internet.**


Try New Turbulent Juice
Flavour
Lappy's Test Tube Dog Farm
Wank-Off
Season 25
Free Hat
Radical Landing!
+1,000 pts
-1,000 pts
Total Shite!
Fapp Chat


Loading... sit your impatient ass down!
POP!
Try New Turbulent Juice
Flavour
POP!
Lappy's Test Tube Dog Farm
POP!
Wank-Off
Season 25
THESE POP UPS, DUDE, I SWEAR THEY'RE GETTING WORSE.
GET READY, INCOMING!
Free Hat
Radical Landing!
WOO, PERFECT LANDING!
*GROAN*
+1,000 pts
-1,000 pts
Total Shite!
YOU FORGOT TO TURN PVP MODE OFF, DIDN'T YOU?
THOSE PAIN RECEPTORS CAN BE A REAL BITCH UNLESS YOU DISABLE THEM.
LET'S JUST GET THIS DONE.
WHERE DO WE START?
Fapp Chat

**PAGE 41**

**PANEL 1** (Important: the first three panels are small and the same size)
We're now inside the Deep Web, following Shinji and Blaze's hacking adventure. We see a loading screen text on an all black background.

**Text on loading screen**
**"Loading... sit your impatient ass down!"**

**PANEL 2**
Pop up appears (SFX: "Pop!") The advert says, "Try New Turbulent Juice! Now with flavour!" (a Rick and Morty reference)

**PANEL 3**
More pop ups (SFX: Pop! Pop!) One advert says, "Lappy's Test Tube Dog Farm: Pups Made to Order!" (Reference to Astral Chain's dog mascot Lappy) Another says, "The Great British Wank-Off: Season 25!"

**PANEL 4**
We see Shinji and Blaze in the 'net, free falling as if they're skydiving, through a multicoloured tunnel of light, with squares breaking off and flying through the air. We see pop ups all around them. They don't all have to be legible of course. Make the odd word here and there readable: "Win!" "Cheap Loot Boxes!" "Wreck-Fest X Tickets Here!" "Consume!" "Free Hat!" (*South Park* reference)

**Blaze**
**"These pop ups, dude, I swear they're getting worse."**

**Shinji**
**"Get ready, incoming!"**

**PANEL 5**
Down in the 'net, we get a sweet superhero landing from Blaze (left), and a terrible crumbled crumpled heap landing from Shinji (right). She has "Radical Landing! +1,000pts" above her head, while Shinji has "Total Shite! -1,000pts" above his head.

**Blaze**
**"Woo, perfect landing!"**

**Shinji**
**"*groan*"**

**PANEL 6**
View of them from behind, Shinji (right) holds his arm in pain and stands slumped next to Blaze (left) as they both look out over a bustling town square in the middle of the 'net. There are Billboards for fake internet brands like PayBay (eBay), Eden (Apple), Fapp-Chat (Snapchat), etc. People mill around with weird and wonderful avatars - sort of like the crowd scenes from *Ready Player One*, but without the copyrighted characters.

**Blaze**
**"You forgot to turn PvP mode off, didn't you?"**
**"Those pain receptors can be a real bitch unless you disable them."**

**Shinji**
**"Let's just get this done."**
**"Where do we start?"**

# SCRIPT TO ART (#4 page 26)

**This page has the highest file size out of the entire series, and it's easy to see why when digging into the detail. By this point, I'd scaled a lot of my script direction back as I knew that Clark and I were in perfect sync with what we wanted *Killtopia* to be, and how it should feel."**

**But, who could predict that Clark would create something this layered, chaotic and strangely beautiful out of my relatively thin panel descriptions? Then you have Lou's colours, which just makes this darkly violent skirmish feel alive and ultra-vibrant. We knew this moment had to be huge, as it marks a pivotal change in our leads' character growth. This is the precise moment where Shinji's no longer a clumsy rookie Wrecker, but a confident leader of the slum revolution. At the same time, Omi transcends from the sick, vulnerable person we met in the first book, to the most important person in the entire story.**

**PAGE 26**

**PANEL 1** (Big)
Side view of the street Shinji (left) stands with his foot up on some bricks and points his baseball bat, signalling members of the Koshiro-23 militia to charge. They run to the right, spilling out onto the street, brandishing melee weapons, lit molotov cocktails and a range of firearms as they run. Some have bandanas over their mouths and goggles on, others wear leather jackets and look like punks. Omi joins the charge, pistol in both hands as she runs.

**Shinji**
**"For Travis!"**

**Militia #1**
**"Let's goooo!"**

**Militia #2**
**"Take back the slums!"**

**PANEL 2**
Small reaction panel of Crash turning to look at us, two Yurei behind him on either side of the background. Crash points towards us, as if commanding his horde.

**Crash**
**"It's the Kamiyas."**
**"If they want a fight, they've got one. Show them no mercy, my children!"**

**PANEL 3**
We see two militia members from behind on the war-torn street, holding assault rifles as they spray bullets into a wave of Yurei and husks that sprint towards them. The husks roar and the Yurei's hold things like hatchets and katana. Empty bullet cases fly out of the militia's guns as they fire. (SFX from guns: "Dakka! Dakka!") Parts fly off the husks and dolls as they get hit by rounds.

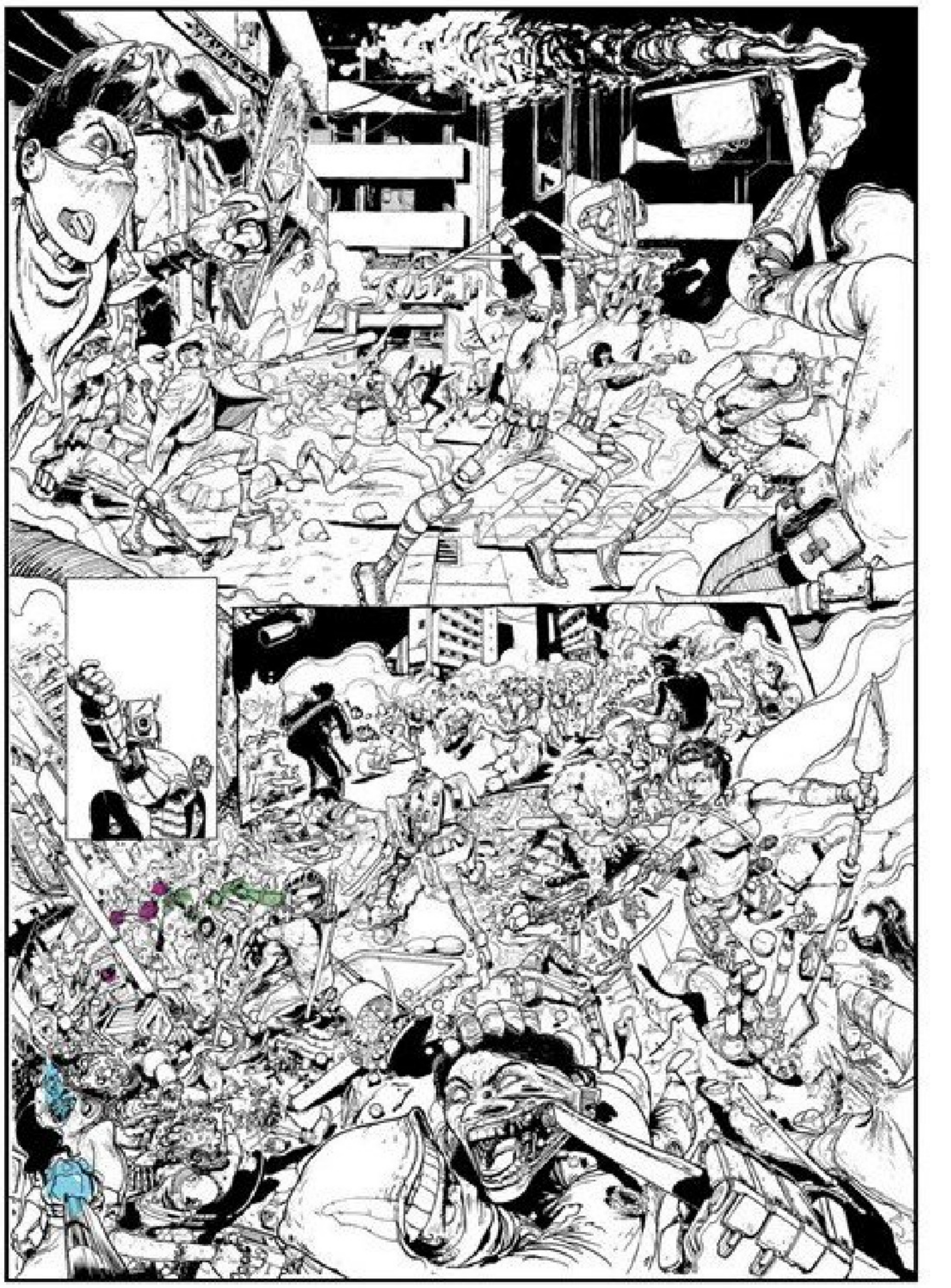
**Husk**
**"Groooaaah!"**

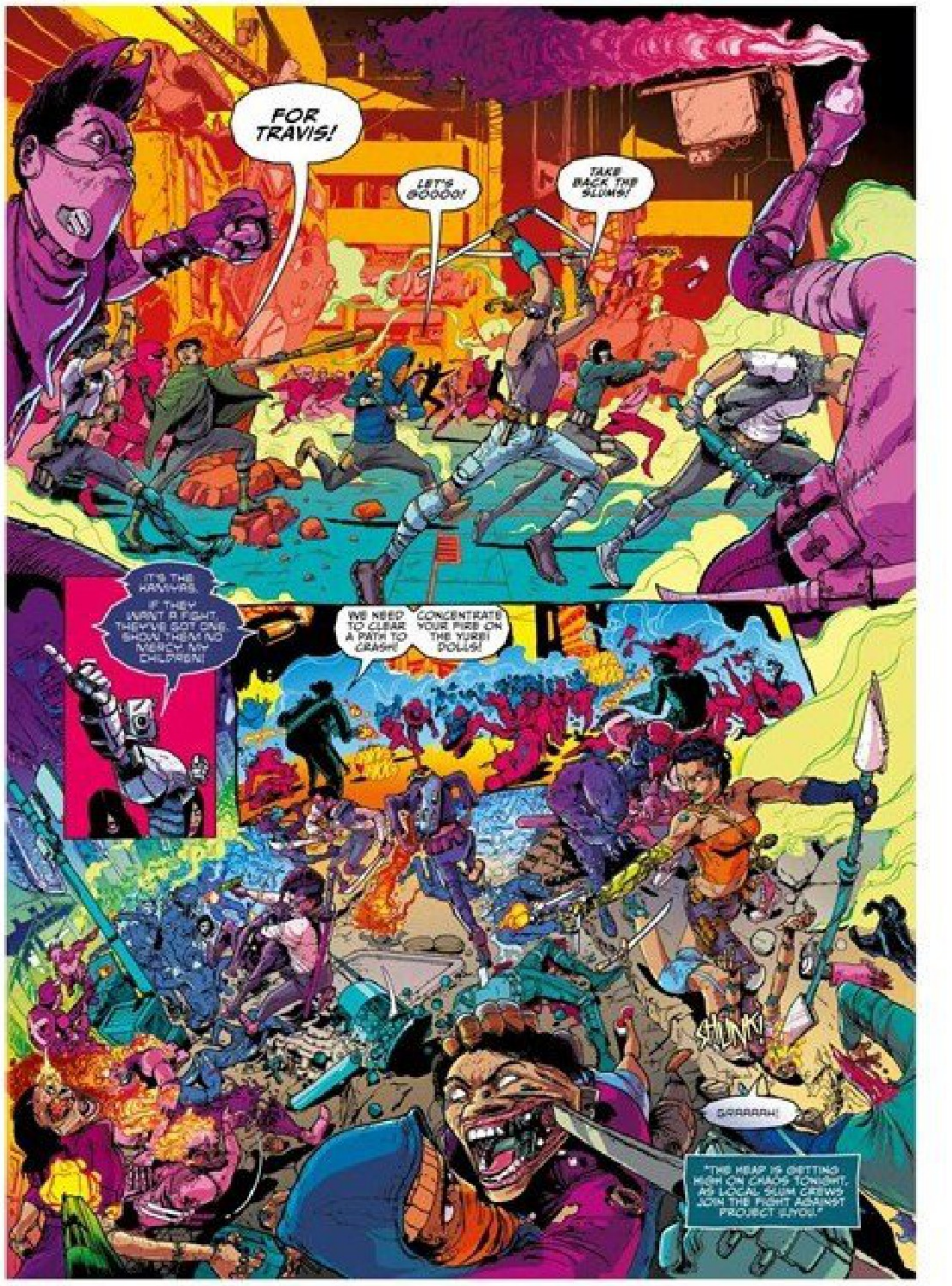
**Militia**
**"We need to clear a path to Crash!"**
**"Concentrate your fire on the Yurei dolls!"**

**PANEL 4**
We see a Yurei doll on her back. A female militia member has a foot planted on her chest as she drives a makeshift spear right through her head, shattering it as she thrashes her arms and legs around. Sparks fly from her broken head. (SFX from spear: "SHUNK!") We see others fighting in the background. Over the scene, the news presenter Kazue talks.

**Yurei**
**"Graaaah!"**

**Kazue** [Box]
**"The Heap is getting high on chaos tonight, as local slum crews join the fight against Project Ujyou."**




FOR TRAVIS!
LET'S GOOOO!
TAKE BACK THE SLUMS!
IT'S THE KAMIYAS. IF THEY WANT A FIGHT, THEY'VE GOT ONE. SHOW THEM NO MERCY, MY CHILDREN!
WE NEED TO CLEAR A PATH TO CRASH!
CONCENTRATE YOUR FIRE ON THE YUREI DOLLS!
SHUNK!
GRAAAAH!
"THE HEAP IS GETTING HIGH ON CHAOS TONIGHT, AS LOCAL SLUM CREWS JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST PROJECT UJYOU."

# SCRIPT TO ART (#5, page 1)

**Killtopia was always going to end with a big fight during the tenth annual Wreck-Fest tournament, but the first draft of *Killtopia* #5 opened in a completely different way. It started in the virtual boardroom of Squawker, Neo Tokyo's version of Twitter. There was a joke about how Stiletto was the company's CEO (years before Elon bought Twitter!) and we'd see her discuss final battle plans with Shinji, Omi and our other key players.**

**In the end, though, I decided to start on a more tranquil, touching moment between Shinji and Omi. We don't see their faces, but thanks to Clark and Lou's incredible work, you get a real sense that they're gazing out at their city in a rare moment of calm. They're remembering better times, but also picturing the bright future they could create after the day is through. I think this was definitely the right choice.**

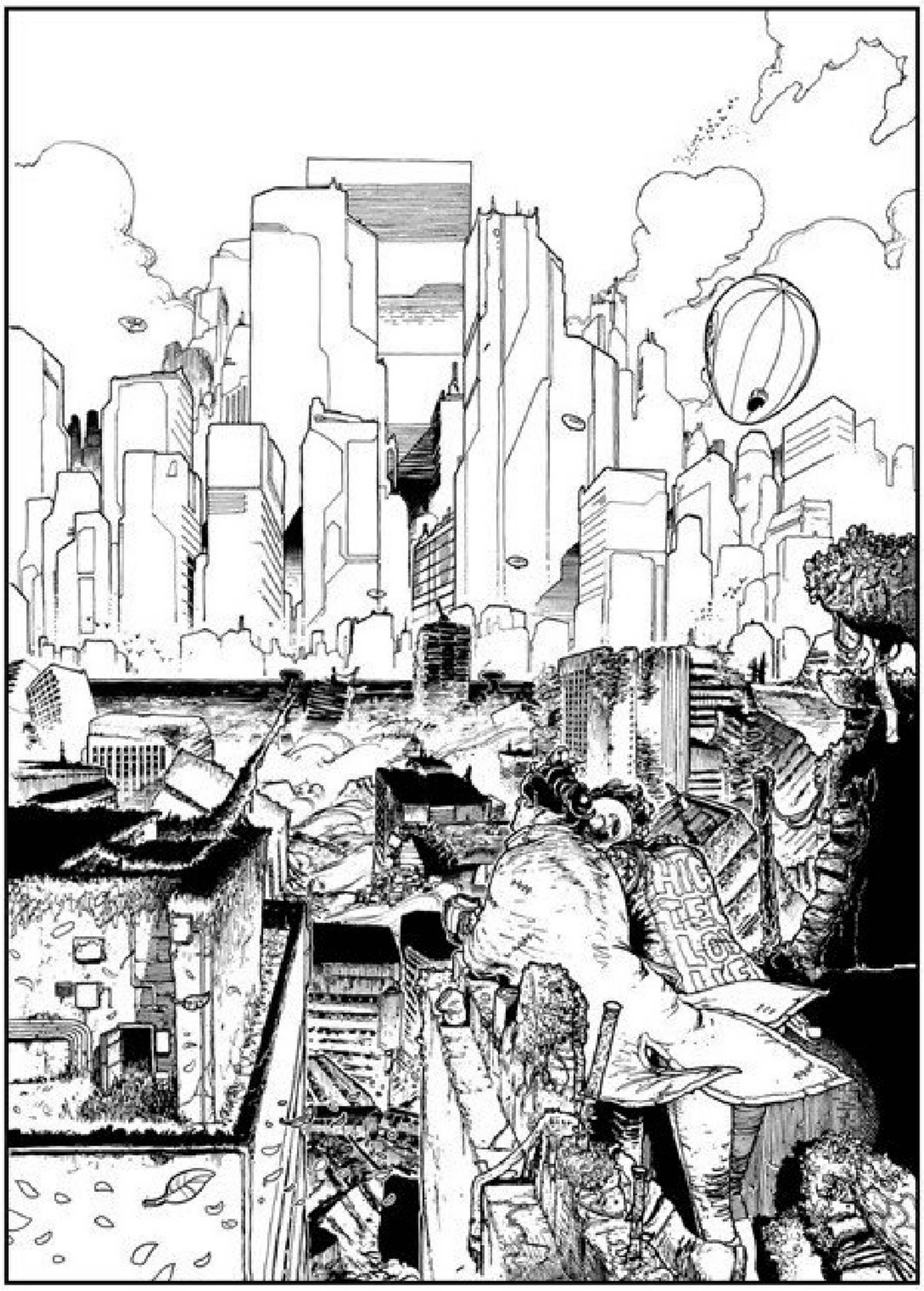
**PAGE 1 (SPLASH)**

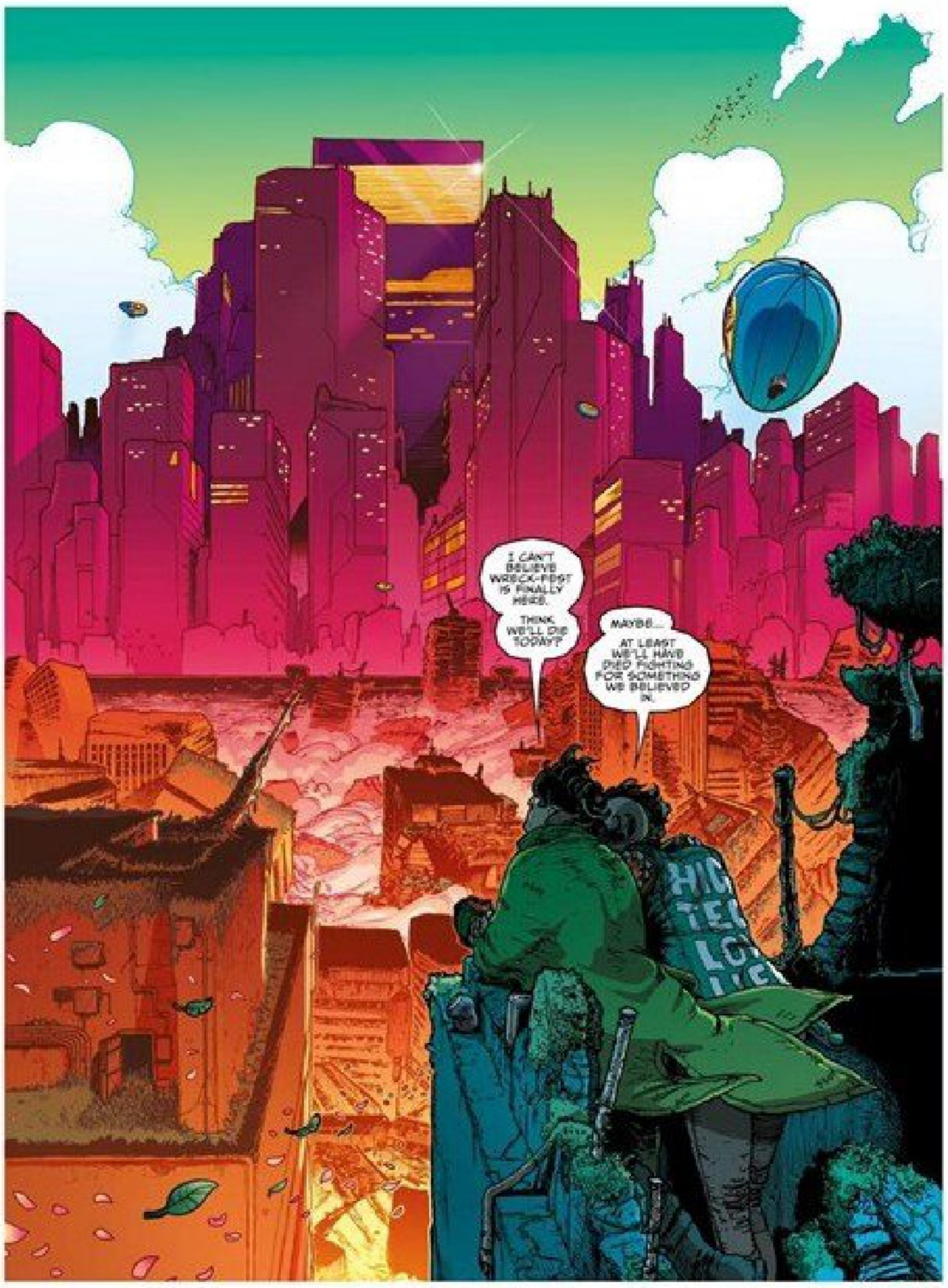
**PANEL 1**

Shinji (left) and Omi (right) with their backs to us on the rooftop of their old building looking out at the wastelands of Sector-K. It's mid-afternoon. There are two "Wreck-Fest X" blimps hovering into the distance. We see fireworks popping off from the horizon. They have their backs to us and are leaning on a railing at the rooftop's edge. Omi rests her head on Shinji's shoulder. Shinji is in his wrecker gear, Omi is in Crash's leather jacket and has her scarf tied around her forehead. Her red and black striped top has been replaced by a black tee a white "51" on it. IMPORTANT Omi doesn't have her blindfold on yet.

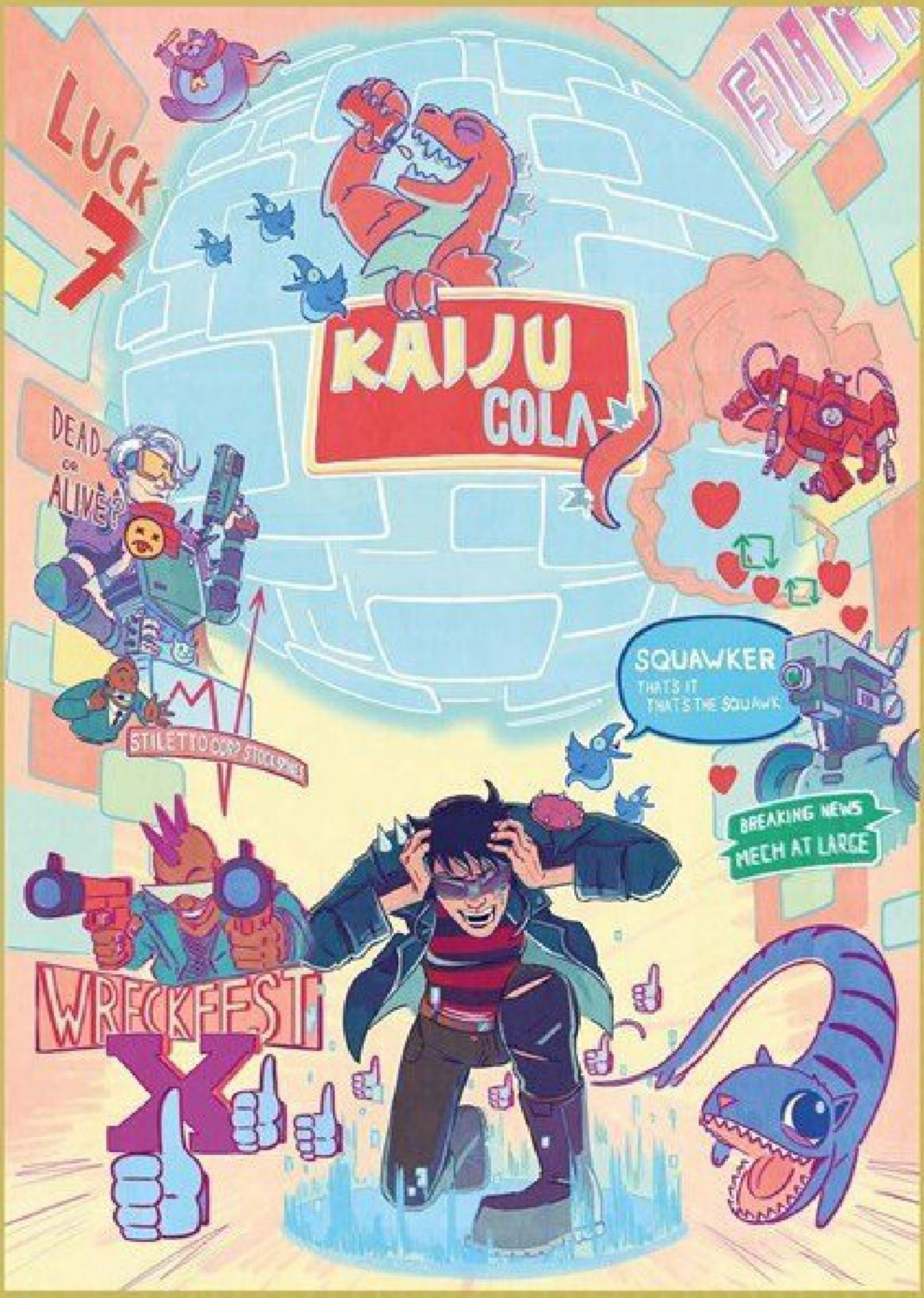
**Shinji**
**"I can't believe Wreck-Fest is finally here."**
**"Think we'll die today?"**

**Omi**
**"Maybe..."**
**"At least we'll have died fighting for something we believed in."**

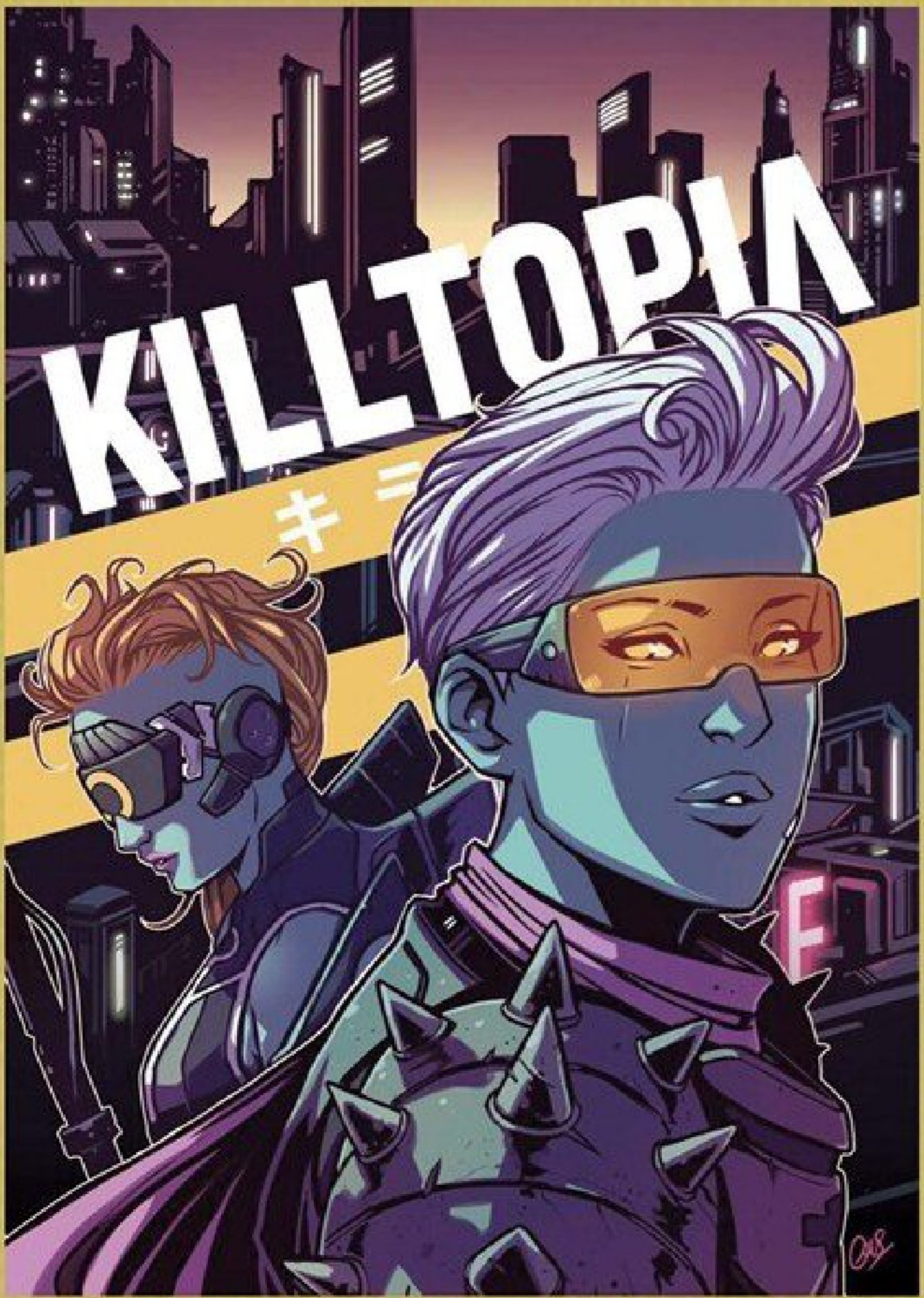



I CAN'T BELIEVE WRECK-FEST IS FINALLY HERE.
THINK WE'LL DIE TODAY?
MAYBE...
AT LEAST WE'LL HAVE DIED FIGHTING FOR SOMETHING WE BELIEVED IN.

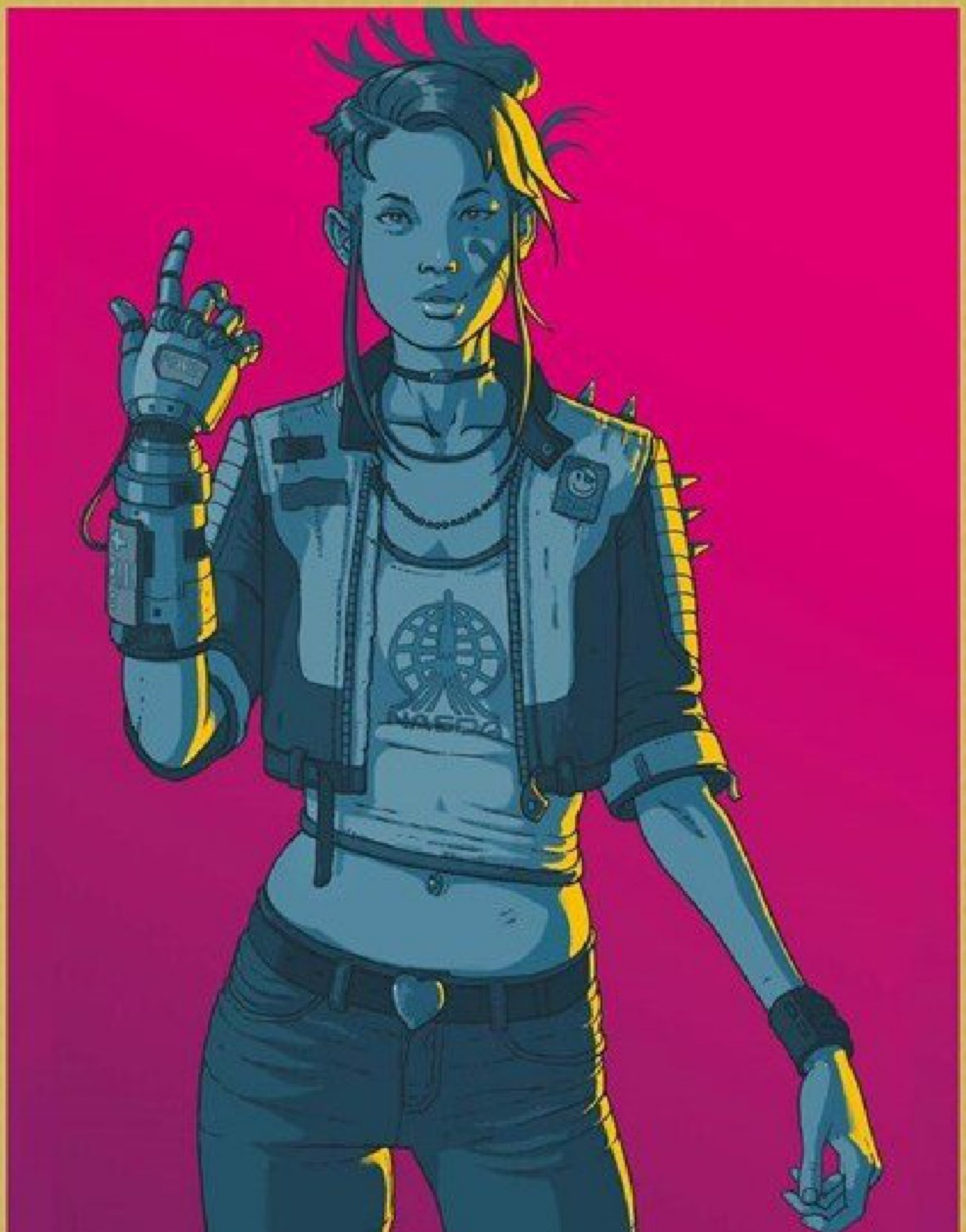
# ART PRINT GALLERY


LUCK 7
KAIJU COLA
DEAD or ALIVE?
SQUAWKER
THAT'S IT THAT'S THE SQUAWK
STILETTO CORP STOCKSPIKE
BREAKING NEWS
MECH AT LARGE
WRECKFEST X

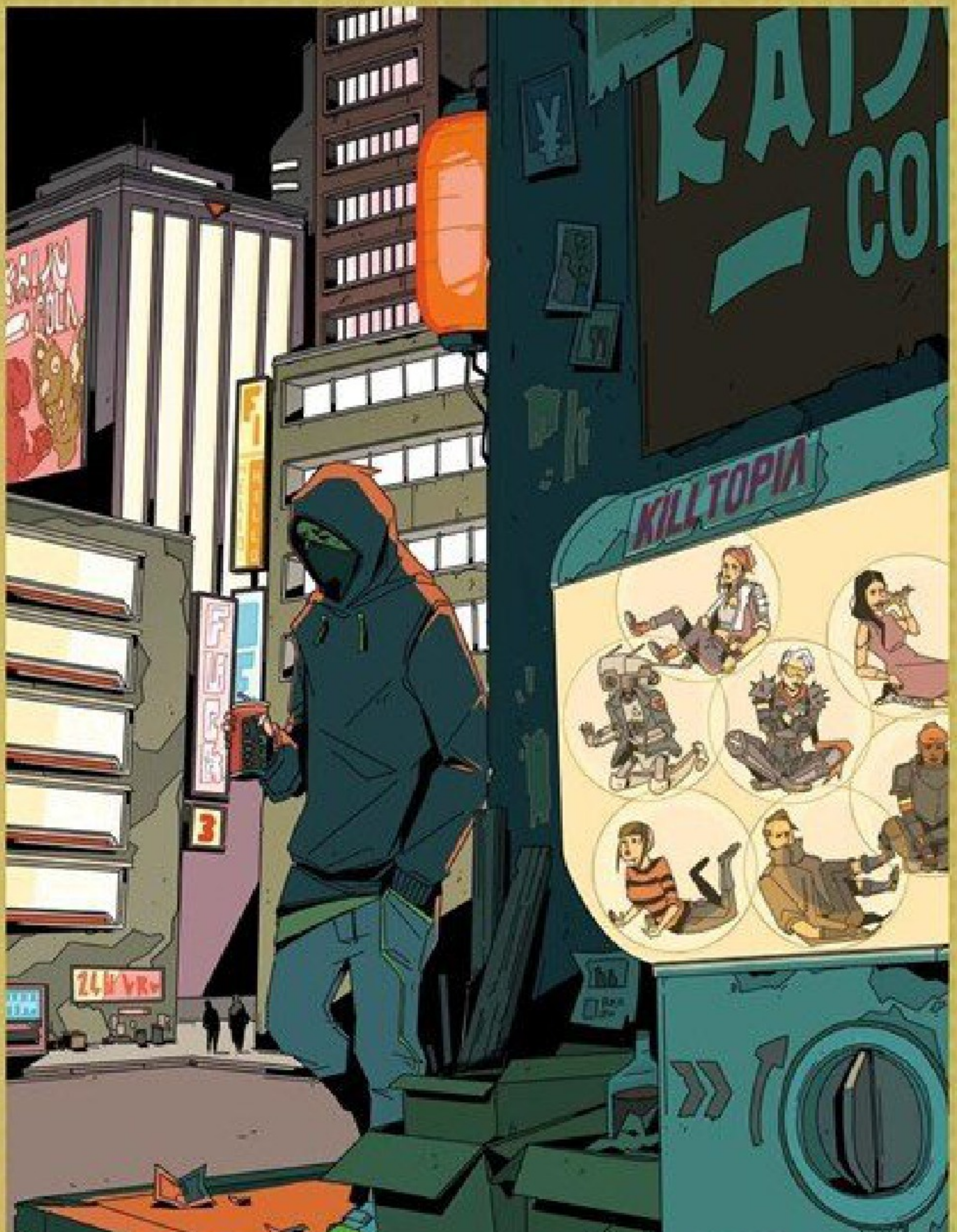
**ALEX MOORE**


KILLTOPIA
キ

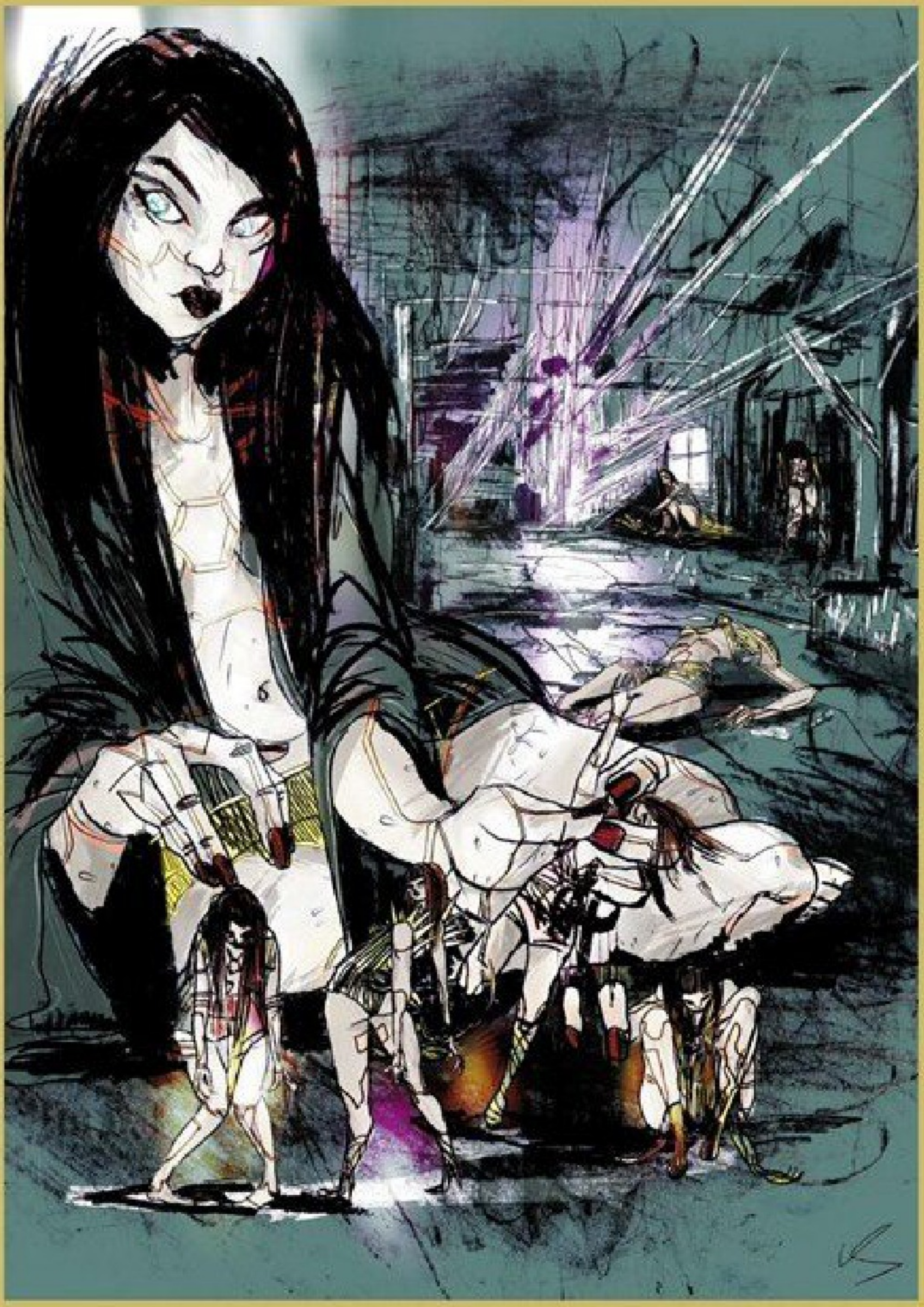
**CASPAR WIJNGAARD**



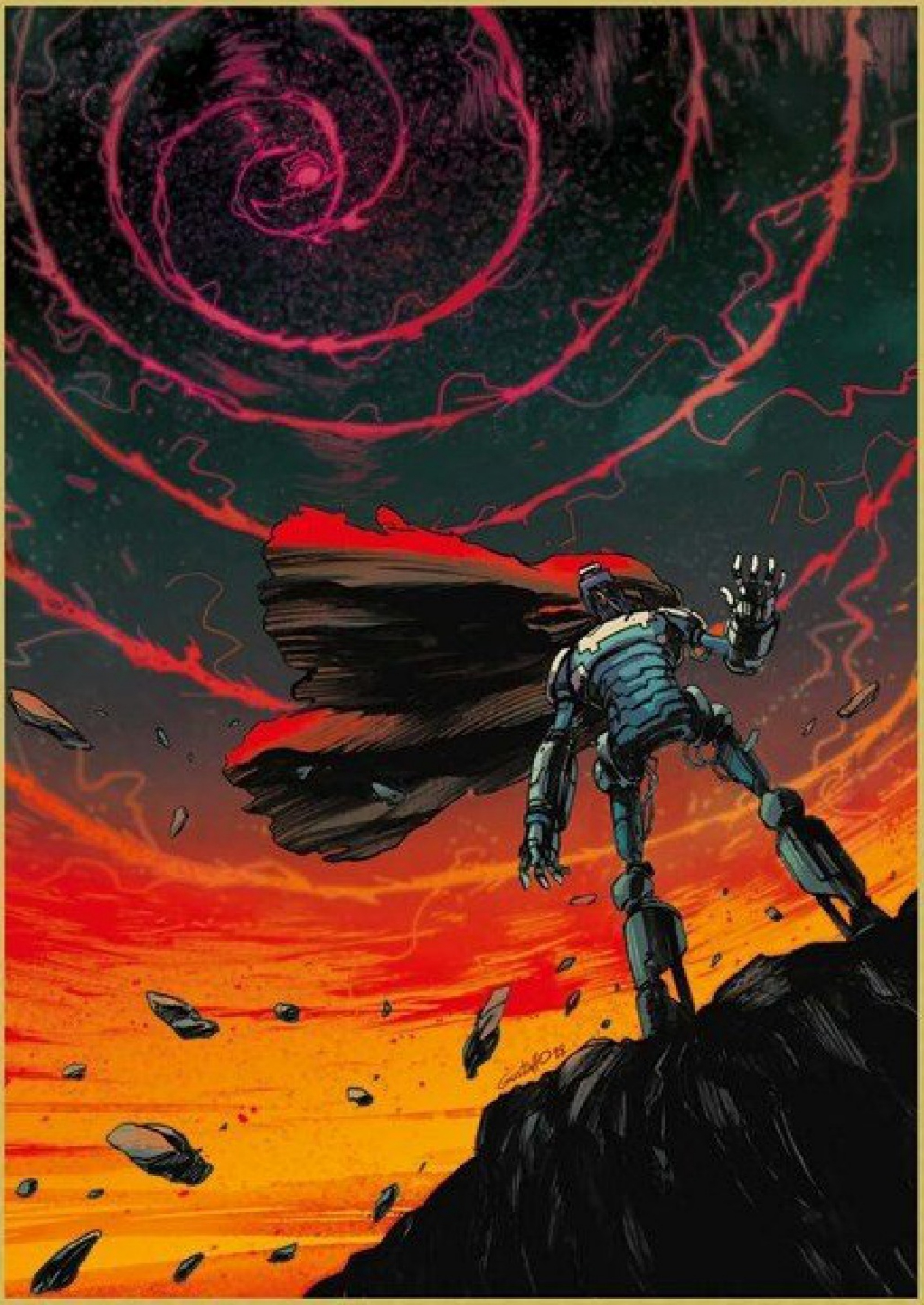
**CRAIG PATON**


KILLTOPIA
KAIJU COLA

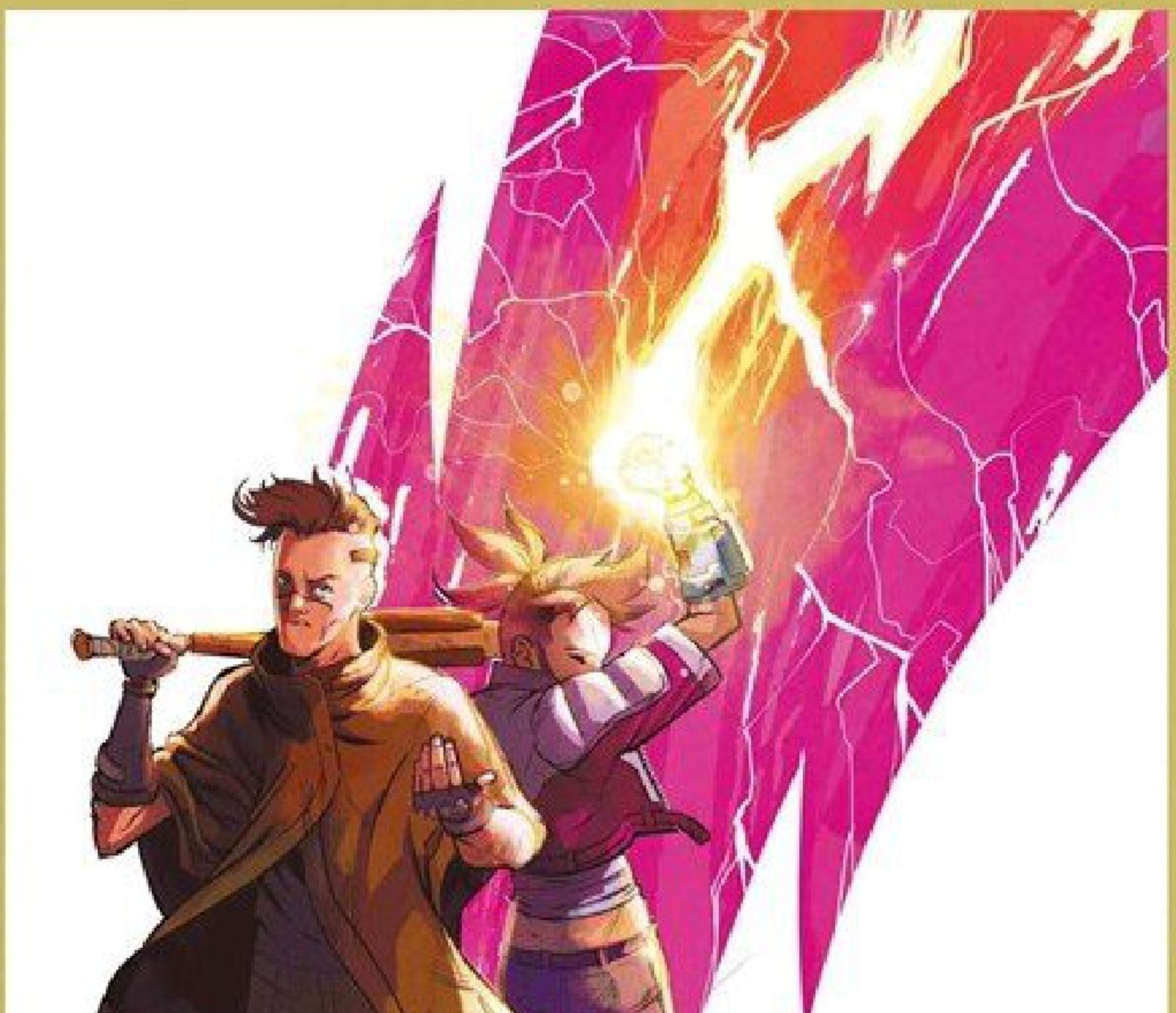
**KIM HU**



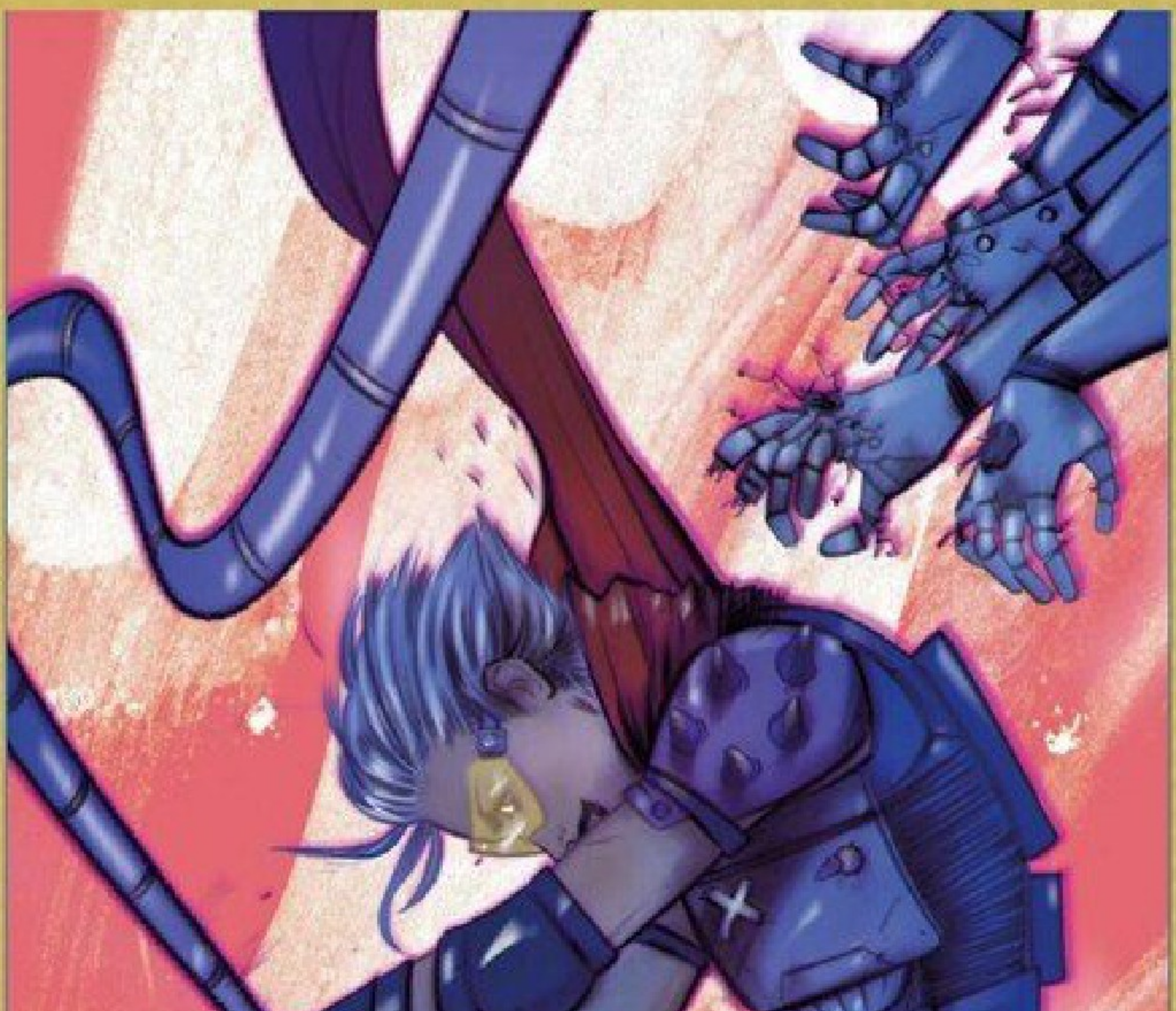
LUCY SULLIVAN



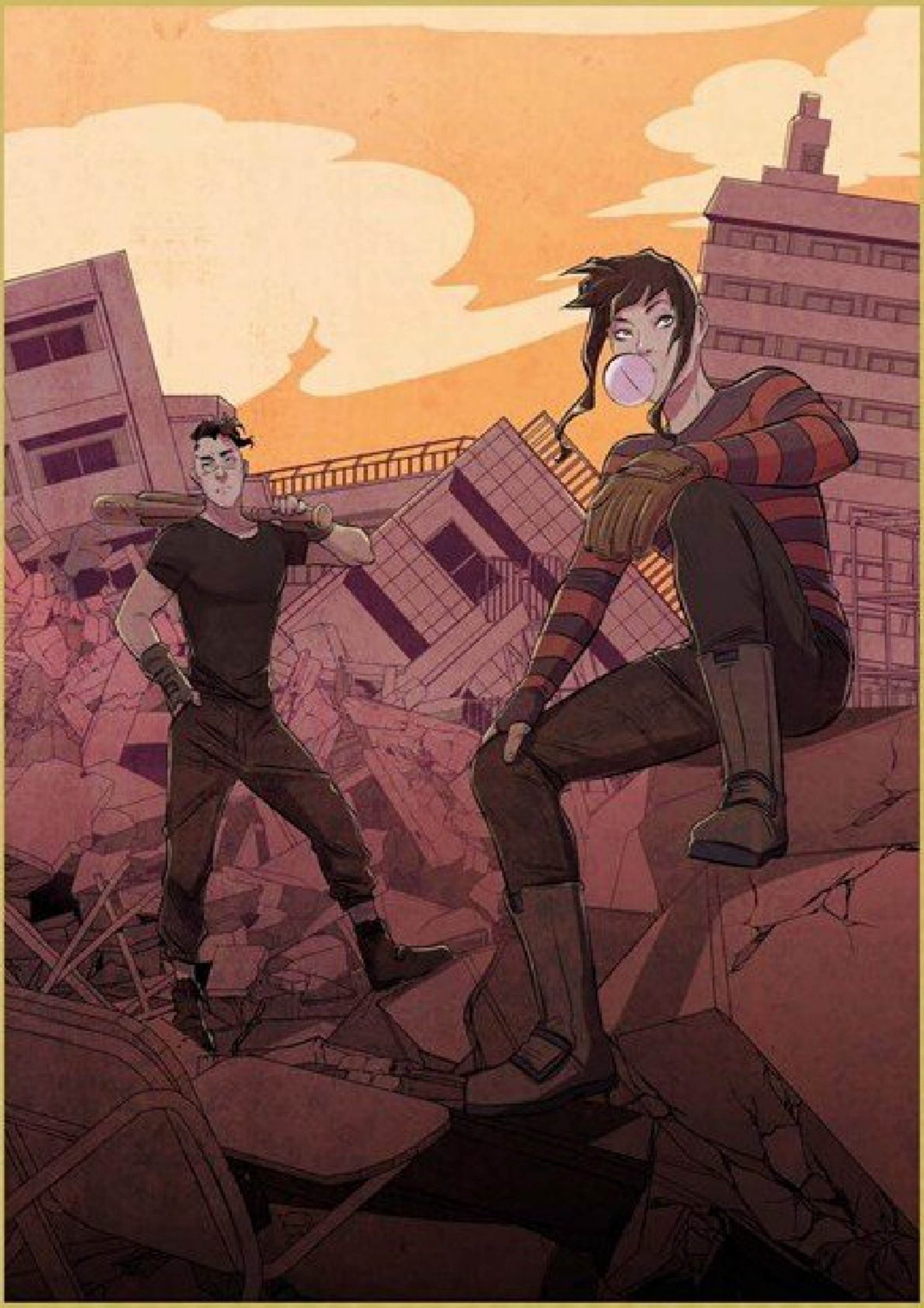
GUSTAFFO VARGAS



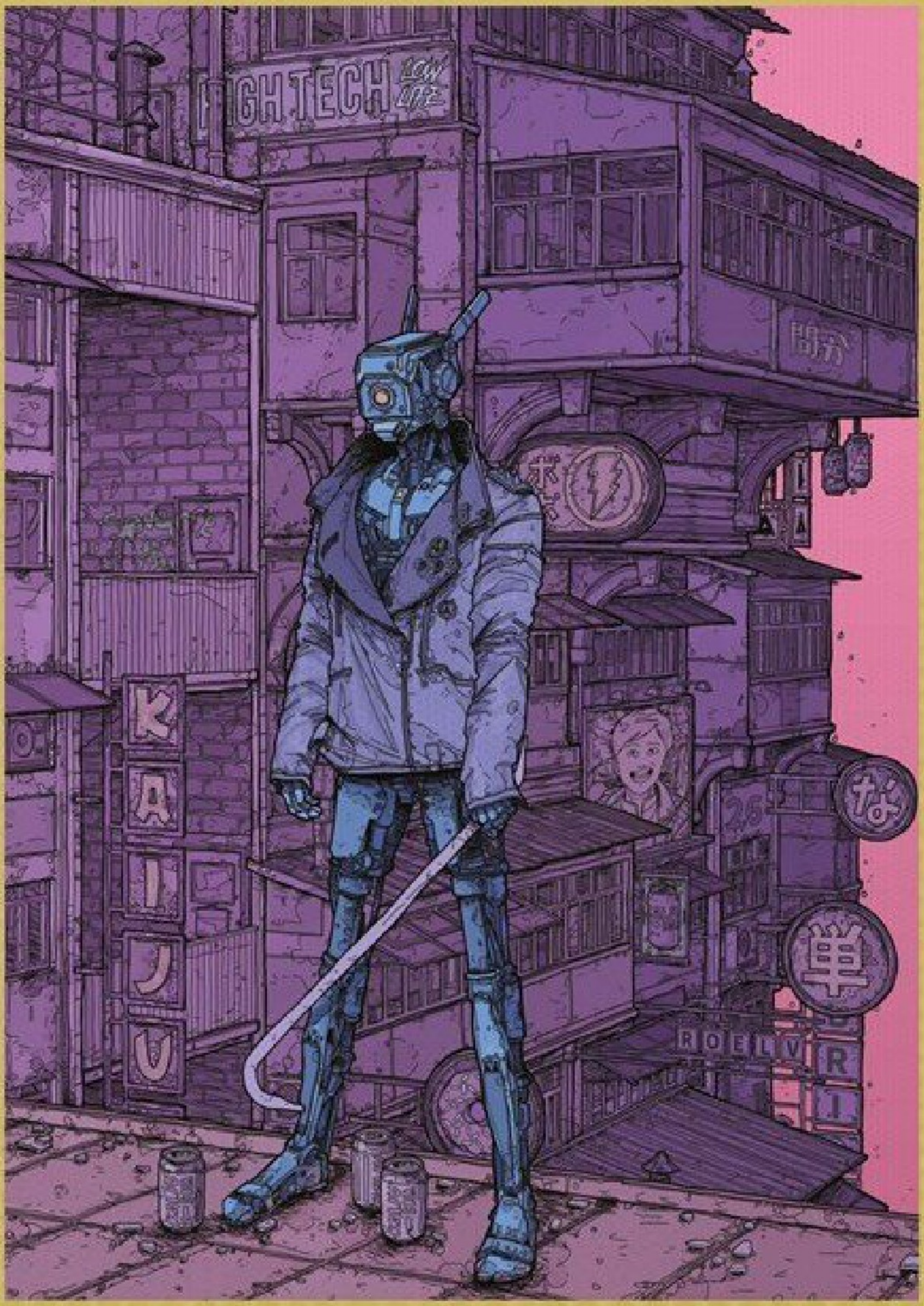
SEBASTIAN PIRIZ



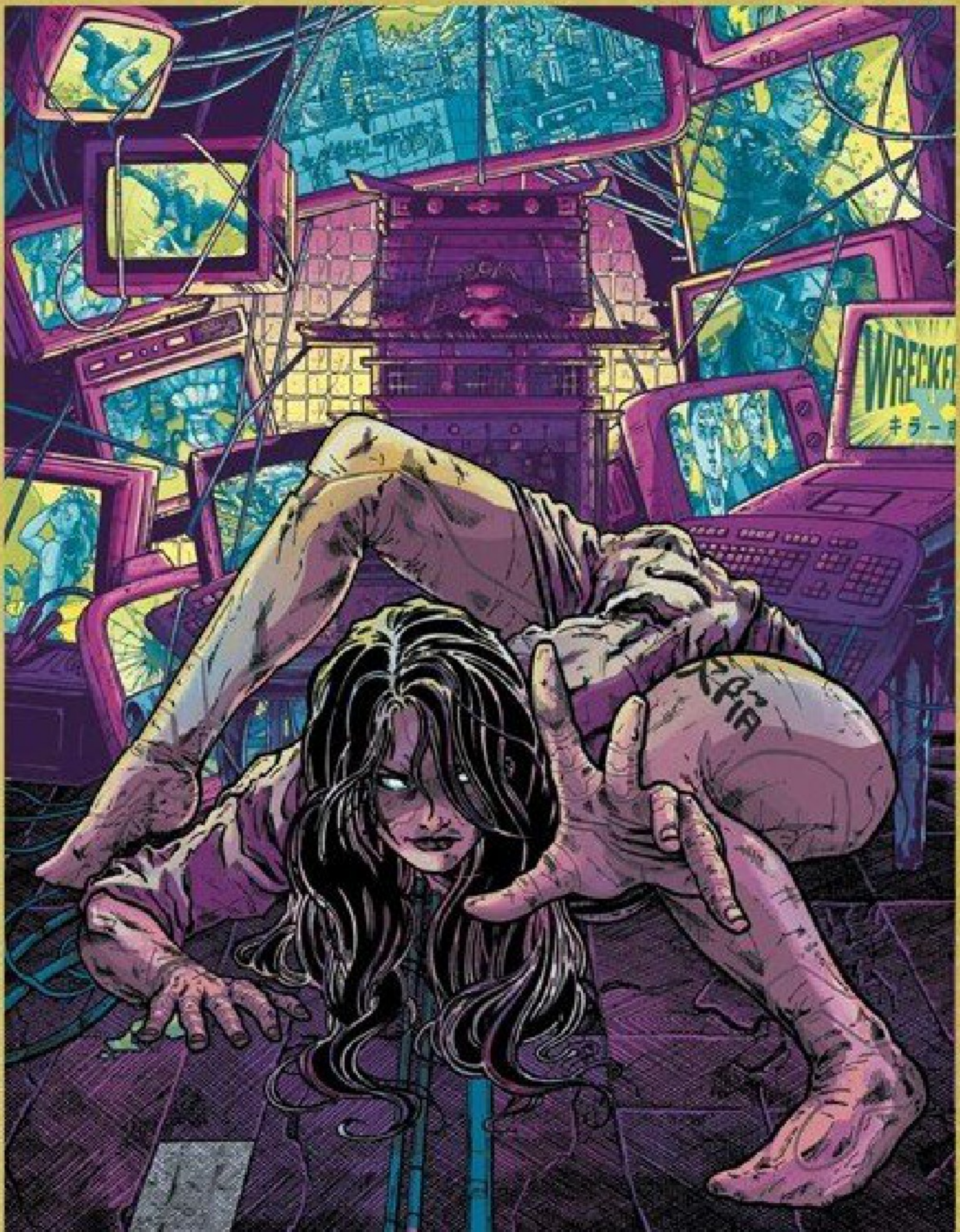
TULA LOTAY



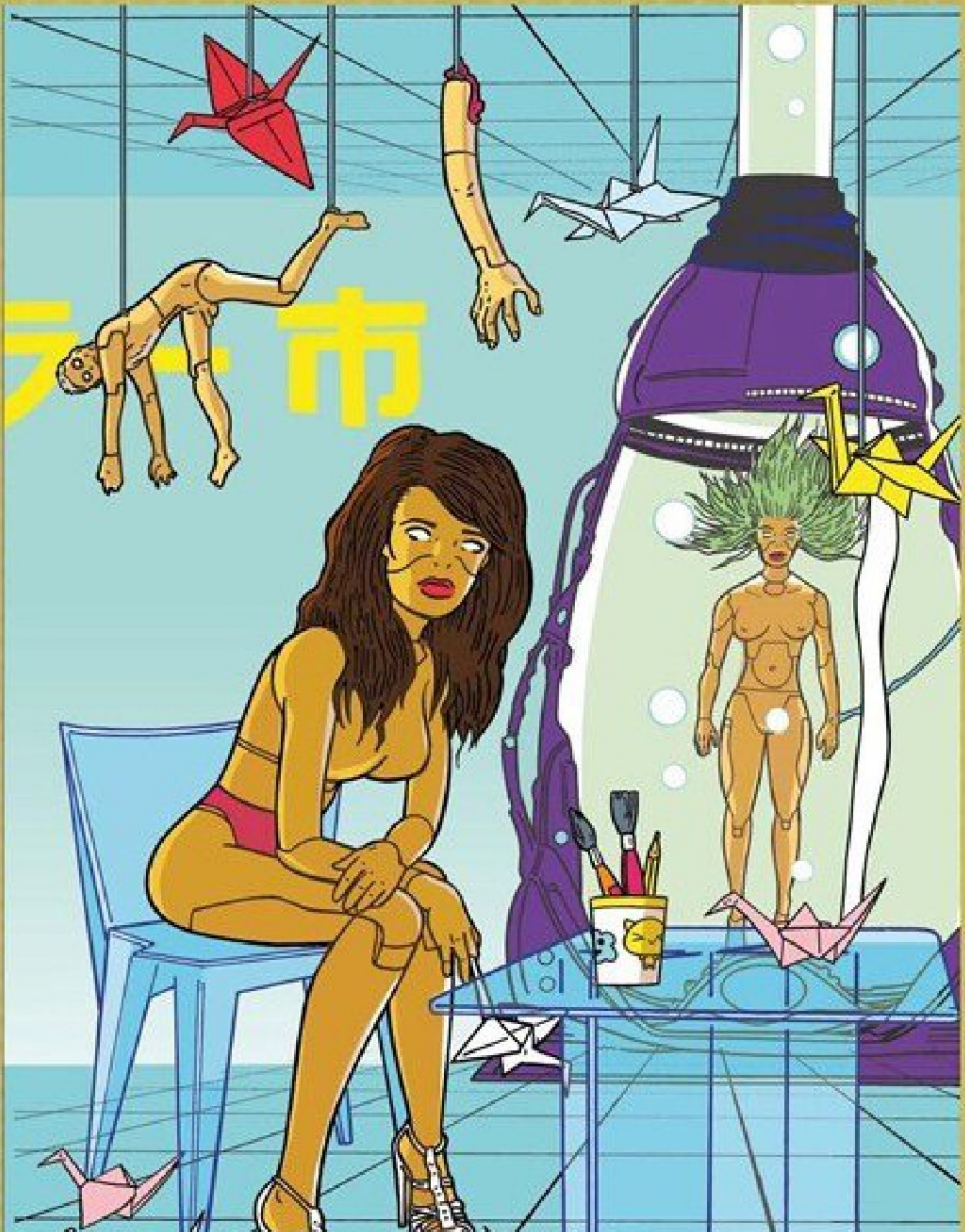
YISHAN LI


HIGH TECH LOW LIFE
KAIJU
ROELVR

ALEX GIOIOSA



GARY KELLY


ラー市
SHAKY KANE

SHAKY KANE

# CREATOR BIOS

## DAVE COOK

**Dave Cook** is an award-winning writer of comics and video game history books from Edinburgh, Scotland. He's the creator of cyberpunk series *Killtopia*, which has won three Scottish Independent Comic Book Awards and a Creative Edinburgh Award. He's also the writer of *Killtopia* prequel, *BPM: Beatdowns Per Minute*, the videogame adaption of *Ninja Baseball Spirits*, and more.

## CRAIG PATON

**Craig Paton** is a comic artist and illustrator based in Glasgow, Scotland. As an illustrator Craig has worked with some of the biggest companies in the UK throughout a variety of industries, producing artwork for a diverse range of products, from Night Club interiors to Zombie book covers and much in between. In comics, Craig created the artwork for *Killtopia* parts I & 2 as well as his own cyberpunk artbook, *Hardcode.* Currently Craig is focused on drawing and producing his own weird zines and mini-comics.

## CLARK BINT

**Clark Bint** is a UK-based comic artist, colourist and cover artist. Known for his high energy action and dynamic storytelling style, he has drawn interiors for *Rebel Moon: House Of The Bloodaxe* and *Killtopia* volumes 3-5, and drawn and coloured interiors for *Frank At Home On The Farm.*

## “KILLTOPIA IS THE EPITOME OF MECHA, CYBERPUNK STORYTELLING. WITH ITS CLEAR HOMAGES TO OLD-SCHOOL MANGA AND ANIME, THIS IS THE PERFECT DYSTOPIAN UNIVERSE.”

– A Place to Hang Your Cape

Ten years ago, Neo Tokyo was suddenly infested by killer mecha. Today, the machines are hunted by high-tech bounty hunters known as ‘Wreckers’ in the city’s Sector-K district - now rebranded as ‘Killtopia,’ and home to the world’s most-popular bloodsport.

While on a hunt, an amateur & unlicensed Wrecker, Shinji, encounters Crash: the world’s first sentient mecha. In Crash’s code lies the cure to the Rot - a nanomachine plague that’s slowly killing humanity, including Shinji’s only remaining family – his sister, Omi.

Together they set off to heal the planet, being pursued by only every Wrecker, yakuza gang, android assassin, influencer, and scumbag in Neo Tokyo.

FRONT ART COVER BY
CRAIG PATON
BACK ART COVER BY
CLARK BINT

TITAN COMICS

TITAN-COMICS.COM

RECCOMENDED FOR MATURE READERS